



Overcoming in Our Weakness Judges 6-8

Repentance is required by God, not just regret. Judges 6:1-10

"Now it came about when the sons of Israel cried to the Lord on account of Midian, that the Lord sent a prophet..."
Judges 6:7-8a

- God sends a prophet with a sermon before He sends a judge with salvation.
Sometimes we need to learn the "why" or the reason before we just get what we want or even what we need.
- 2 Corinthians 7:10

Calling by God comes before qualifications. Judges 6:11-40

"The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, 'The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior.'" Judges 6:12

- The Weak Mighty Warrior - How does God see you compared to how you see yourself?
- What messages are hard for you to believe about yourself?
- We are all made in the image of God, but it's so easy to believe the lies of the enemy that tell us we are too weak and small to make an impact by following God's calling on our lives.

With God, we can win in our weakness. Judges 7:1 - 8:21

"The Lord said to Gideon, 'The people who are with you are too many for Me to give Midian into their hands, for Israel would become boastful, saying, 'My own power has delivered me.'" Judges 7:2

- How does God's power overcome forces we are unable to defeat?
Gideon has faith that his weakness is God's strength.
- This is obedience that doesn't make sense in our human terms.
That's typically the kind of obedience that God calls us to.
- Jesus is the ultimate example of triumph in "worldly weakness." His victory comes through death. It's the upside down kingdom. God is the hero of this story, not Gideon.

Compromise often comes after comfort. Judges 8:22-35

"Gideon made it into an ephod, and placed it in his city, Ophrah, and all Israel played the harlot with it there, so that it became a snare to Gideon and his household." Judges 8:27

- How do we trust in ourselves, instead of God, after achieving great success?
He forgets that his weakness is God's strength. He starts to trust in his own strength and the people do too.
 - We need to constantly remind ourselves that we are on mission so that we don't succumb to the compromise of comfort. There is no unemployment or retirement in the kingdom of God.
 - The ephod became a snare.
We have things that we might think are minor but they are what Satan uses to snare you.
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LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Read Judges 6:1-10. Have you ever felt like you experienced regret but not true repentance? Have you ever been more sorry for the consequences of sin than you were for actually sinning against God? Share your stories.
2. Have you ever felt like God called you to do something that you weren't technically qualified to do? Or you didn't feel qualified to do? Tell that story to each other. What happened? What other stories in the Bible have people serving God in huge ways who weren't qualified?
3. It's important to say on mission so that we don't succumb to the compromise of comfort. Share one way that you are striving to live on mission for God in your community or work or elsewhere. Or how can you do this more in the future?

Next Steps:

1. **Do you feel stuck in a cycle of sin or addiction?**
Come to Celebrate Recovery on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in room S-6. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered twelve-step program and a no-judgment, safe haven where people who are hurting can experience hope and healing in a Christian community. Find out more about support groups and Celebrate Recovery at calvarylife.org/cr
2. **Do you have questions, or know someone who has questions, about Christianity and following Jesus?**
Invite a friend to attend the Alpha Course with you as a way of staying on mission so that you will not compromise. Alpha meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Lobby. Explore some of life's big questions over a relaxed time of dinner, honest conversation, learning and group discussion. Learn more at calvarylife.org/alpha
3. **Would you like to discover your calling, rather than just trusting your qualifications?**
Attend the Discover Your Purpose class on June 17 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Lobby. Be equipped with how to serve and share your faith, discover your unique God-given spiritual gifts, and find opportunities at Calvary and in the community which will allow you to use these gifts. Get more info about Discover classes at calvarylife.org/discover