



## Deciding To Fight

July 28, 2019

**Series Review:** Fighting your real enemy (*see supplemental notes from July 6-7, 2019*)

**Big Question:** If God is fighting with you, why are you losing?

**Text:** Judges 7:1-15

**Introduction:**

- Gideon started with 30,000 soldiers to fight the Midianites and ended up with 300. He won with just 1% of the people who started with him. The big lesson for me is that I must never complain again about how many people join the fight. I just need the right people that God approves in the fight.

### I. Five Observations About The Way God Fights

Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley.

#### 1. God Does Not Depend On A Crowd (This is an emotional trap for preachers)

- 2 And the Lord said to Gideon, “**The people who are with you are too many for Me** to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’”

#### 2. God Does Not Fight With The Fearful (You must press past your fear for God to join you)

- 3 Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, ‘**Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once** from Mount Gilead.’ ” And twenty-two thousand of the people returned, and ten thousand remained.

#### 3. God Does Not Fight With The Passive (If you don’t pay attention you cannot be trusted in battle)

- 4 But the Lord said to Gideon, “The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall go with you,’ the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ the same shall not go.” 5 So he brought the people down to the water. And the Lord said to Gideon, “**Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself;** likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink.”
- 6 And **the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred** men; but all **the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water.** 7 Then the Lord said to Gideon, “**By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you,** and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place.”

#### 4. God Does Not Mind Seeing People Leave (Can you survive people leaving and standing alone?)

- 8 So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all the rest of Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley. 9 It happened on the same night that the Lord said to him, “Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand.”



## 5. God Does Not Fight Without Doing Research (Do you count the cost before you commit?)

- 10 **But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant**, 11 and you shall hear what they say; and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp.” Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outpost of the armed men who were in the camp. 12 Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude.
- 13 **And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, “I have had a dream:** To my surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed.”
- 14 Then his companion answered and said, **“This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp.”**15 And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that he worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, “Arise, for the Lord has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.”

### II. Seven Personal Observations About The Gideon Story

1. Sometimes **you have too much confidence in the size of your personal army** (friends, family, etc.)
2. Sometimes **you can greatly underestimate what a few people can do** to make a difference.
3. It is amazing to me that **so many people really did not want to fight** for their homeland
4. It’s amazing to me that out of 10,000 people **only 3% were attentive**
5. I can only imagine **what 29,700 people said on the way back home** (“Man I am glad that’s over.”)
6. I am amazed that **God had already gone before them**
7. I am amazed that **nobody that left turned around**

#### Conclusion: How does this apply to our church?

1. We should never judge our future potential or success by the **size of our crowd or supporters**
2. We should understand that **some people will leave** for reasons we can’t control
3. We should **never be offended** or in any way, harass those who don’t want to fight  
**Question:** What it be like to have 29, 700 soldiers **pretend fighting** and 300 **really fighting?**
4. We should **embrace the 300** in our lives and trust God for victory
5. We should always know that **God has gone ahead of us** and intimidated our enemies

#### Next Time We Have a New Series: “On Fire”

**Hint:** There are five people I want to explore in scripture that had a passion for God that burned in them like fire. It inspired them to make five important decisions. Tune in next week and I will show you how each of their choices can improve the quality of your life.