

Sermon Topic: Faith Conquering Fear by Rev David Ho
Sermon Text: Judges 6:1-34

Introduction

- God has not given us a spirit of fear. (2Tim 1:7)
- The opposite of faith is fear (Matt 8:26)

Difference between a person of Faith and a person of Fear

- The person of faith looks to God and his unfailing promises. He is confident!
- A fearful person sees only himself and his miserable circumstances. He is anxious!

Circumstances of Gideon

- Distress (6:2)
- Destruction (6:4)
- Deprivation(6:6)
- Disobedience (6:17)

God reminds Gideon of his Identity and Calling (6:12)

- The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.

But what were his responses?

- He Complains (6:13)
- He Gives Excuses (6:15)
- He Doubts (6:6)

A fearful person sees only himself and his miserable circumstances. He is anxious!

[Many at times, when God calls us to serve Him in a ministry through someone, we tend to respond by saying, "let me pray about it". But do we? Or is the phrase our way to delay action? Why do we tend to hesitate when God calls us for service, but when it is something to do with our careers / family/ education, we immediately agree and take up the opportunity. Like Gideon, we respond similarly to God.]

God's Replies to Gideon?

- “Am I not sending you?” (6:14)
- “I will be with you and you will...” (6:16)
- “I will wait (for you)...” (6:17)

The person of faith looks to God and his unfailing promises. He is confident!

But Faith must stir us into actions!

- While God meets Gideon in his fear in private, He challenges him to meet Him in faith in public!
- God will never use a “secret saint” to win great battles. We must come out in the open and take our stand, regardless of the cost.

How does God change Gideon into a Conqueror?

- Before God can entrust to us great things, we must be tested for faithfulness in the small things!
- Before we can build altar to the LORD, we must get rid of the other altars we have built in our lives!

[Sometimes, these other “altars” may not be bad stuff. These altars can be things that God has blessed us with, like family, but had taken precedence over God’s first place in our lives. We must learn to surrender them back to God instead of “worshipping” or being “devoted” to them as though they are gods]

Conclusion

God changes Gideon from a Coward to a Conqueror, He transforms him from a fearful man to a man of faith! He can change and transform you too!

The LORD is with you, MIGHTY WARRIOR!

Reflection for Discussion

1. What evil did the Israelites commit that God handed them over to the Midianites for 7 years?
2. Who were the Midianites? How did they make the Israelites forget their identity and calling?

3. The Lord calls Gideon “mighty warrior!”. Why do you think God would have selected someone like Gideon? After all, he was from the weakest of the twelve tribes, he doubted his ability, and he tested God.

4. Are you in a season/situation wrestling with God in complaints, excuses or doubts? If yes, what are they?

5. What do you think God’s response to you will be? If God calls you a mighty warrior, how does it make you think and feel?

6. What kinds of things do people bow down to today?

7. What personal altars do you need to knock down?

8. God is calling you to rise up. What will be your response be?