

Fearless #1: Gideon

⁷*"for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."*
2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)

¹*"The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of Midian seven years. ²And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds."* Judges 6:1-2 (ESV)

⁶*"And Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the LORD."* Judges 6:6 (ESV)

¹¹*"Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joas the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor."* Judges 6:11-12 (ESV)

My typical response to God's call on my life is fear.

I fear that:

- **God will not come through for me.**

¹³*And Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian."* Judges 6:13 (ESV)

- **I don't have what it takes.**

¹⁵*And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."* Judges 6:15 (ESV)

God's response to my fear is His presence.

Because God is with me:

- **I do have what it takes.**

¹⁴*And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?"* Judges 6:14 (ESV)

¹⁶*And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man."* Judges 6:16 (ESV)

²*The LORD said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand..."* Judges 7:2a (ESV)

- **I need to trust in His ways.**

²*The LORD said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved*

me.' ³*Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.'" Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained. Judges 7:2-3 (ESV)*