

THE FAITH TO TRUST IN GOD

Man has always been prone to trust in his own flesh. It is amazingly easy for man to take the credit when all is going well and victory is attained. How quickly God is forgotten (if ever remembered) when success is achieved, and the stock market rises.

Jerubbaal, better known as Gideon, prepared to do battle with the Midianites. Knowing the inclination of man to trust in himself, God told Gideon, "...*The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me*" (Judges 7:2). The assembly numbered 32,000, but the fearful were permitted to go home. Only 10,000 remained to do battle with the Midianites!

But God said to Gideon, "...*The people are yet too many*" (Jud. 7:4). The people were directed to the water and given the "dog lapping" test. "*Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth*" (Jud. 7:5) was chosen to fight. The ones who bowed down upon their knees to drink were sent home. Gideon was left with only 300 soldiers to defeat the entire Midianite army.

The first lesson we learn is that God does not give His children the "spirit of fearfulness" (2 Tim. 1:7). Whatever it is that God would have us to do as soldiers of the cross we can and should do. Excuses for not being a faithful servant of the Lord frequently flow from the lips of many members of the church. Far too many Christians are paralyzed with the spirit of fear – the fear of mockery, the fear of rejection, the fear of failure, the fear of retaliation, and the fear of defeat.

A lack of faith or trust in God will allow fear to cripple one's ability to accomplish what could otherwise be done for the cause of Christ. The message of the writer to the Hebrews should forever be in our minds and on our lips: "*So that with good courage we say, The Lord is my helper; I will not fear: What shall man do unto me*" (Heb. 13:6)?

How can we fail when the Lord is our helper? The "crown of life" is promised to those who will not allow the

fear of suffering to intimidate them (Rev. 2:10). Christ teaches His followers to "*be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell*" (Matt. 10:28). The apostle Paul asks, "*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Even as it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord*" (Rom. 8:35-39). May we learn to feed upon and trust in the Word of God!

The second lesson we learn is that man often pats himself on the back for that which God has done. Jehovah knew that if Gideon had an army that numbered in the thousands the people would take credit for the victory. How difficult it is for man to trust in an infinite God while having full confidence in his own finite abilities! Military might is no substitute for Jehovah God. This is a lesson that America desperately needs to learn today. We are now watching one of the strongest military nations ever slowly erode and decay from within because of exalting self and denying God!

The third lesson we learn is that regardless of the number, God plus the faithful constitute a majority. How could Gideon defeat the Midianites with only an army of three hundred? The answer is found in the words of Paul when he said, "...*If God is for us, who is against us*" (Rom. 8:31)? The Psalmist so believed and said, "*Then shall mine enemies turn back in the day that I call: this I know, that God is for me*" (Psa. 56:9). God promised Isaiah, "*No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall arise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of Jehovah, and their righteousness which is of me, saith Jehovah*" (Isa. 54:17). The will of the

Lord is going to be accomplished. The decision we must make is whether or not we will stand with and gladly serve Him.

The fourth lesson we should learn is not to bask in our own glory. The wisdom of the world praises man and sets him up on a pedestal. Far too many crave such a position and the prestige it affords. Loving the glory that is of men rather than the glory that is of God continues to be the downfall of many (cf. John 12:43). It is God that we must worship, praise and trust – not man!

May we grow in faith until we always have the courage and confidence to trust in God!

Marvin L. Weir from *Bonham St. Beacon*

Learn How To Walk In Son Light at our...

Family Bible Studies

Five Evenings of Bible Studies for All Ages

July 28 – August 1, 2008

7 – 9 p.m. each evening

"Walking in Son Light"

Toddlers – Teens Classes

"Makeover for the Christian"

Dudley Morton and Eugene Jenkins

Adult Class Teachers

Browse to: <http://olathecoc.org>

for Adult Class Webcast

BIRTHDAYS

Donald Lycan, 07-22; Chelsea Nelson, 07-23.

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson (PM).

Wednesday: Millie Robertson; Debbie Schleif.

Tina Thomas was admitted to Olathe Medical Center on July 12 and was treated and released on July 16. Steve Brown had outpatient surgery last week. Robin Brown's mother had some tests last week.

Those battling cancer: David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Remember these in your prayers along with: Millie Robertson and Allen Scott.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Kathleen Camp was visiting with relatives in Chicago last week. Chris Edwards left last week on business in Chicago.

FBS REFRESHMENTS

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer for those who wish to provide cookies and other refreshments for our upcoming Family Bible Studies.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDIES

The themes are: *“Walking In Son Light”* for Teens-Toddlers and *“Makeover for the Christian”* for Adults. The dates are July 28 – August 1. Make arrangements to be here each night and enjoy this great spiritual feast! Flyers are available to invite others to come with you.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 57; Sunday PM, 37; Wednesday PM, 31.

The Gospel can break a hard heart and can heal a broken heart.

Those To Serve

July 20, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thomas

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson

SONG LEADER..... George Thomas

OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek

PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter

ASSIST..... Trent Thrasher

ASSIST..... Steven Schleif

CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards

CLOSING PRAYER..... Steve Brown

LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY 23rd

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson

INVITATION Jared Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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