

THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD

TREVOR SUNDBO – PART ONE

We are familiar with the phrase “the battle is not ours, the battle is the Lord’s” – we sing about it, we talk about it and we have heard teaching on it from time to time.

Certainly, we understand this truth from an intellectual or conceptual point of view, but do we walk in it? Do we demonstrate this truth in our day-to-day lives? In looking at my own life, I believe my answer to this question would be, “I don’t think so.” With the help of the Holy Spirit, I pray that the remainder of this article will help us understand this truth in a greater measure and help us to put it into practice in our lives.

Listed below are four additional portions of scripture if you are inclined to do a little bit more study on this topic.

- 2 Chronicles 32:1-22 - Hezekiah
- 1 Samuel 17:1-50 - David & Goliath
- 2 Chronicles 20:1-24 - Jehoshaphat
- Matthew 26:36-43 - Christ in Gethsemane

I would suggest that this article is not complete without also reading “How to Hear the Voice of God” by Andy Snoke in the May/June 2015 Sharon Star.

We will be reviewing the account of Gideon in Judges 6 and 7 looking through the filter of “the battle is not mine, the battle is the Lord’s. I suppose that we all have battles that we are facing. They may be health-related, work-related, financial, family, relationships, spiritual, fear, anxiety and probably numerous other types of battles. Please consider the battles that you are facing as we work through the account of Gideon.

Step 1 – We Need To Recognize Or Acknowledge That It Is Not Our Battle

The Lord our God will help us and fight our battles. Our difficulty, our challenge, our mountain, our fiery furnace, our valley – are not ours to fight. We still go through them, but they are not our fight. This is not easy for us to grasp.

We still go through the experience (whatever it is), but the battle itself is not ours to fight. I don't think our natural minds can easily grasp this.

Your challenges and difficulties are different from mine, and whether your battle is big or small, this truth remains the same. The Lord our God is not limited in his love, in his power or in his authority.

"When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God is with you, who brought you up from the land of Egypt. So it shall be, when you are on the verge of battle, that the priest shall approach and speak to the people. And he shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them; for the Lord your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you'" (Deuteronomy 20:1-4).

This is a general statement about what is to come. The children of Israel are not facing a battle at that point in time, but whenever they are faced with a battle at any time in the future it is God that will go with them and fight for them against their enemies to save them. The same promise holds true for us today!

"With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles." And the people were strengthened by the words of Hezekiah king of Judah" (2 Chronicles 32:8).

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Step 2 – God Wants To Hear Our Sincere Plea, Request Or Cry For Help

*"Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. So the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains. So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey. For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it. **So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the***

***children of Israel cried out to the Lord.** And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the Lord because of the Midianites, that the Lord sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of ^ubondage; and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. Also I said to you, "I am the Lord your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell." But you have not obeyed My voice'" (Judges 6:1-10).*

The children of Israel cried out to the Lord and the Lord responded. God heard their cry, sent a prophet to let them know he heard their cry **and set in motion their deliverance**. This is similar to the account we read in Exodus 2:23-25 when the children of Israel cried out unto the Lord because of their bondage in Egypt.

In this example of Midianite domination, the children of Israel battled on their own for seven years until they had nowhere else to turn. When the best thinking from the minds of men and women failed, they cried to the Lord. Perhaps when we look over our lives, we too have battled on our own for far too long before turning to the Lord.

If the battle is not ours, God expects us to cry out to Him with a sincere heart.

Step 3 – Humility (God Needs To See A Measure Of Humility In Us)

"Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!"

Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?' But now the Lord has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."

Then the Lord turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

And the Lord said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me. Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You."

And He said, "I will wait until you come back."

So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them. The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so.

Then the Angel of the Lord put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the Lord departed out of his sight.

Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the Lord. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face" (Judges 6:11-22).

After the children of Israel cry out unto the Lord for deliverance, what is the first thing God does? God goes searching for someone he can work with. Why does he choose Gideon? At least one of the reasons Gideon is chosen is because of the humility he demonstrates in verse 15. *"How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, I am the least in my father's house."* We see a similar demonstration of humility from Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20:12 as he calls out onto God on behalf of Judah, *"For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."*

Somehow, we must come to the same place as Gideon and Jehoshaphat. We must let the Lord know that we don't know what to do, we don't know what to say, we can't do it on our own – we need His help.

God's plan is now set in motion. How many people does God need to start with? One person – not hundreds or thousands. One person that he can work with. Let that person be me and let it be you!

If it is the Lord's battle, the minds of men and women have no place in it. The arm of flesh and the thinking and reasoning of our natural minds have no place. The Lord's battle must be handled by the Lord. The Lord will fight, not us.

Confirmation

We see in verses 17 to 22 that after Gideon hears the Angel of the Lord, he looks for confirmation. Gideon wants to

make sure that it really is God's voice. For the purposes of this article, the key point is not how Gideon received confirmation – the key point is that he wanted confirmation because he needed to make sure that this was the voice of God. This is also applicable to us today. When we believe that we have heard the voice of God, we also should be looking for confirmation that it really is God's voice. The article, "How to Hear the Voice of God" by Andy Snoko in the May/June 2015 Sharon Star provides excellent instruction in this area.

Step 4 – Remove That Which Is Not Pleasing In God's Sight

"Now it came to pass the same night that the Lord said to him, "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it; and build an altar to the Lord your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down." So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the Lord had said to him. But because he feared his father's household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night" (Judges 6:25-27).

God needed to destroy the evil altar, to remove that which was not pleasing in His sight. God will not compete with evil or that which represents evil. At times, the Holy Spirit may also put his finger on items in our lives that are not pleasing in His sight that have to be dealt with. When this happens in our lives, I pray that we are quick to take action.

At this point, perhaps God is thinking – okay, Israel has cried out to me, Gideon is someone I can work with, and I need to let Israel know that I will not have that which represents evil in my sight, so the evil altar has to be destroyed – will Gideon be obedient to me? It seems that this a test for Gideon, a test which Gideon passes.

Confirmation

Again, in Judges 6:36-40 we see Gideon looking for confirmation that he is hearing the voice of the Lord and that the Lord will save them. As mentioned earlier, it is not the fleece or "laying down a fleece" that is important – the key point is Gideon's desire to get confirmation to know that he is following the Lord's direction.

Step 5 - Obedience

"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.

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.' 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.

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." 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." 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. 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 ^{1a}place." 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" (Judges 7:1-8).

We see Gideon's example of obedience in the previous chapter by destroying the evil altar, as commanded by God. Again we see Gideon demonstrating his obedience in this chapter. God says send 22,000 soldiers home – Gideon sends 22,000 soldiers home; God says to send an additional 9,700 home – Gideon sends another 9,700 home. 300 soldiers remain; God started with one man, went to 32,000 men and now he has 300 men. God has 300 men to deliver Israel from the hand of their enemies.


Let us remember that this is not Gideon's battle, it is the Lord's battle. Gideon's job is to take instructions and obey. God is in control, not Gideon.

"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. But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant, 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. 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.

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."

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" (Judges 7:9-14).

Confirmation

Once again, we see Gideon receiving confirmation from God that He will deliver the Midianites and Amalekites into the hands of Israel. 

To be continued in the February 2023 issue

GLOBAL MISSIONS INC.

Global Missions Inc. was founded in 1944, as a Christian mission to promote and encourage the preaching of the gospel to every creature.

Global Missions reaches into many countries in Africa, India, the Caribbean, the United States of America, South America and the Philippines. These local churches are established on the foundational truths revealed in God's word and through His unfolding revelation. Local churches are governed by local residents who are referred to as elders.

Global Missions is a nondenominational Christian church.

Headquarters:
802 Airport Road
North Battleford, SK S9A 2Z3 Canada

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 934
North Battleford, SK S9A 2Z3 Canada

Telephone:
(306) 445-2733

Email:
info@globalmissionsinc.org

Online:
www.globalmissionsinc.org

Traveling Ministry Contact List:
www.globalmissionsinc.org/about

SHARON

The Sharon Star is a monthly publication and mailed as a free-will offering plan. The articles within are intended for inspiration and information to those who are interested in the unfolding revelation of the Word of God.

Published by:
Global Missions Inc. in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada.

The Sharon Star is found online at:
www.globalmissionsinc.org/sharon-star

Publications Mail Agreement 40012206

Subscribe by mail or online.