

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG53- Where Is The God Of Miracles

I want us to get out of any discouragement and unbelief today. As we are listening to this podcast, I believe for there to be an impartation of real life and faith and determination to move in the things of God. I want to talk about Gideon, and use this story to help really minister to our spirits.

In Judges 6, starting with verse 1, it says, "Then the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord gave them into the hands of Midian seven years." If you go in and read this story, which I encourage you to do, we see what happens is that the Midianites, along with others, would wait for Israel to go plant their crops and their vineyards and do all of their farming work. They were an agricultural country. And then right when everything was ready for harvest – the sheep were all fattened, they had the wool ready to be taken for garment making, and all of this – then the Midianites would come in like a hoard of locusts, it says, and they would just steal everything away from Israel. They would steal all the crops, the animals, and it was very, very disheartening and discouraging.

It is this feeling that we get sometimes when we are under this oppression of spiritual battle, that we just get discouraged. You feel like you can't win for losing, you can't seem to get over the things that you are facing. You work so hard to perfect your walk with the Lord, you are seeking Him, whatever, and just about the time you are ready to be fruitful and to harvest the blessings in God, it seems like something comes and just robs it all away, and you can't figure it out.

Number one, we have to remember that it starts out by saying Israel did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord. So there was definitely a problem in their relationship with Him; just keep that uppermost in your mind as we go forward. But I also want us to look at the attitude and see how we can break into a new relationship, a different relationship with Him, that really calls on the Lord to find the God of miracles moving on our behalf.

I'm going to go to Judges the sixth chapter, because in this an angel of the Lord appears to Gideon and the story turns towards the positive, things start going the right way. Verses 12-13 say, "The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, 'The Lord is with you, O valiant warrior.' Then 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 abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian."

Verses 14-15 say, "The Lord looked at him." Now this is a tremendous meeting with the Lord. It is saying the Lord looked at him. First it says the angel of the Lord appeared to him; but he is having this real meeting with God. And I am sure it is born out of his crying out to God, even if it has been through the discouragement and the unbelief that he has been dealing with. But, "The Lord looked at him and said, 'Go in this your strength and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?' He said to Him, 'O Lord, how shall I deliver Israel? Behold, my family is the least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house.'" So he is saying, "I am absolutely incapable and unqualified to do this thing." But the Lord looks at him and says, "In this meeting with Me" – I mean, he is looking face-to-face

with the Lord. And He says, "Go in the strength of this. Go in the strength of this meeting with Me," and, "Have I not sent you?" So he has two things going for him.

We need to reach for an answer in our situations and where we are struggling today in our own lives, in the world around us. Again, we find ourselves living in these very difficult times; and it is very easy just to be overwhelmed, and discouraged, and feel like we have no faith. I love Gideon's response – "O Lord, if You are with us, then why is all this happening? And by the way, where are all the miracles our fathers told us about?" – because Gideon was missing two things. One is, "Where did You go?" And, "Why aren't there miracles? Where is the power of God in the situation that we are in?" I think it is easy to get into this place in our walk with God as we are facing life, as we are facing the things that we face in this end-time battle that we are in, knowing that we are in these last days and there is much at stake, and there are tremendous spiritual warfares going about us and surrounding us. I don't think it's a problem that we get discouraged. I don't think it's a problem that sometimes we feel overwhelmed. But I think it is what we do with it.

I love the fact that when Gideon has this opportunity, he really reaches for God, and he says, "Why are we in this place?" Well, we know from the beginning of the story why they are in this place: they had sinned against the Lord. And so I'm sure there is a deal of repentance that goes on here with Gideon, in his own heart, about the fact that Israel is not right with God. "Why are we here? Why is this happening to us?" Well, this is happening to us because we are needing to really press in. We need to move in repentance; we need to seek God; we need to be waiting on Him; we need to be in His Word; we need to be building ourselves up by prayer in the Holy Spirit so that we build our own spirits up in God. And on top of that, then I think we have an ability, and really a requirement in God, to cry out to Him and say, "Where are the movings? Where are the miracles? Where is the power of God in our generation?" I do believe we are supposed to have those things. So I love this encounter. And the Lord tells him, "Look at Me, look at My eyes. I'm having this meeting with you. Now go in the strength of this meeting." We should, first of all, believe to have a meeting with the Lord. We should be pressing in with all of our hearts right now to lay hold of the Lord, and to touch Him, to look Him in the eye, and to be strengthened by a true meeting with Him in the Holy Spirit. And in that, we should draw the power of the commissioning that He has given us, and the reality that we are sent by the Lord into this generation as His ambassadors.

I'm going down to John the seventeenth chapter, and verses 14-21. It says, "I have given them Your word." This is the Lord before He goes to the cross. He is praying to the Father, so these are words that He is speaking to God. "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."

Now, the end of these verses is very, very significant, because He is saying that He is sending them, which obviously He is speaking here to those who are following Him, probably the disciples, the 120 that were there in the upper room. He is speaking to these, He is praying to the Father, they are listening to what He is saying. And He is saying, "I am sending you into the world; but, this also applies to all those

who believe through your word." So I want us to understand these words are inclusive of us in our day and generation. We are those that Christ was referring to that believe because of the Word that we have heard and the witness that we have heard from the apostles, from the Gospels, from those that have walked faithfully to God through the generations. We now are in this day, knowing that we, likewise, He has sent into the world, because we are those believers.

As He told Gideon, "You have this meeting with Me, you go in the strength of this meeting, and remember, I have sent you"; we need to remember, we are sent. We need to have a meeting with the Lord. Whatever repentance is necessary, we need to engage it effectively, to break out of our disobedience or our problems in the relationship with Him. But then we need to draw on the strength of a meeting and appearing of the Lord to us, and we need to know in our hearts, know in our hearts beyond a shadow of a doubt, that we are those, as were the original apostles, who are sent into the world at this time as God's ambassadors to this generation.

I want to read from John 14, starting at verses 12-15. It says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father." So Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father, and that is opening the door for the greater works to be done by those He has commissioned and sent into the world, which is us. "Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." Now that's sort of an added addendum here, but the two statements really go together. If we ask anything in His Name, He will do it, because we love Him and we are keeping His commandments. Again, we go back to the beginning of the story with Gideon. We know that Israel was in trouble because they weren't keeping the commandments. We can't be rebellious and we can't be disobedient to God, and then expect Him to do whatever we ask. But, if we get ourselves in that place where we are meeting with Him, waiting upon Him, staying in His Word, and we know that we are sent by Him and by His commission, then we should expect to see greater works; and those things that we ask in His Name, we believe He will do it.

Going to John 20, starting at verses 19-21, it says, "So when it was evening on that day," this is following the Resurrection of Christ, "the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.'"

Now this relates back to Gideon. Gideon wasn't in peace, because of the Midianites and the raids that were taking place, and everything was being stolen. They were starving; it was a terrible time. Well, when we read these verses, the disciples are hiding in fear of those who were seeking to kill them as they had killed Jesus; so they weren't in peace. But the Lord shows up and appears to them, just as Gideon had an appearing, and He says, "Peace be with you. And as the Father sent Me, I also send you."

We need to realize, in this generation, that we really are the people. I know that it is a difficult time. I know we can feel like Gideon. I know we can be discouraged. I know things around us can be so devastating because the wicked one is definitely on the march. As it says, he is like a prowling lion seeking whom he may devour. And he is trying to devour you and everything about you and everything that God has promised you. But we have to stand before Him. We have to look into His face; we have to seek Him with all of our hearts; we have to know. We, in this generation, are those who have heard the Word, heard the Gospel, heard the truth. We have been sanctified by that Word of truth; and He has

sent us just as He was sent, and just as He sent those original apostles and ministries in that generation. We should expect, because of that, that we can speak in His Name. We can ask what we need in His Name, and the miracles will be there.

That was Gideon's question – “Where are the miracles that we heard of from our fathers?” And that's many times a question I hear people saying. We have heard of the miracles. What about the miracles that Jesus did? What about the miracles of the apostles? What about the miracles we talk about in the book of Acts and all of these things; where are the miracles? And we can say, it's a cry of our heart, “Where is the God of miracles in our generation?” I believe we can see the moving of the God of miracles in our day. But we must know that we are sent. We must see Him, and move in the strength of our meeting with Him, asking in His Name, and believing that we will see the greater works that He has promised.

A couple of points I want to emphasize. It is very easy for us, as believers, to repeat the words of Gideon: “If the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are His miracles, which our fathers told us about?” Well, the answer is that we must be convinced of His commission to us. And as His ambassadors, we must speak in His Name, believing to do the greater works. We are not looking for something else to happen. Gideon had to do it. The apostolic ministries in that first century, they had to do it. You are not going to see miracles unless you are moving in faith to do the greater works.

Lastly, I would say, never forget that we must be asking in His Name while we are keeping His commandments. Lord help us to walk in these things, and let us see the miracles of God in this generation as we move as Your ambassadors in this world to establish Your Kingdom, in the name of the Lord.