

Judges 6:34-40 v34 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him. v35 He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, calling them to arms, and also into Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali, so that they too went up to meet them. v36 Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised- v37 look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said." v38 And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew--a bowlful of water. v39 Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece. This time make the fleece dry and the ground covered with dew." v40 That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

Introduction

Over the last two weeks we are looking **THE KIND OF PERSON GOD USES TO SAVE A NATION BLINDED BY SIN**. In the first week we looked at **THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A NATION BLINDED BY SIN**. Last week we looked at **THE KIND OF PERSON GOD ACTUALLY USES TO SAVE A NATION BLINDED BY SIN**.

Today I want to look at: **THE WILL OF GOD.**

Gideon is often criticised for his apparent "lack of faith" in wanting God to verify his instructions to him using different "tests" that Gideon presents to God. The most famous of those "tests" is the one we read as part of our Bible Text.

What can we learn about the "WILL OF GOD" from this and other places in the bible? The matter of the "WILL OF GOD" was very important to Jesus. He often spoke about what God wanted and willed. He said:

Luke 22:42 *"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."*

John 4:21 *Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.*

4:34 *"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.*

8:12 *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world.*

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

9:39 *Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."*

14:23-24 *Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. v24 He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.*

6:37-40 *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. v38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. v39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. v40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."*

1. GOD'S WILL CAN BE KNOWN.

v34 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon.

The book of Hebrews and Romans are very clear that God has revealed himself to us.

In Romans we read about what Theologians call General Revelation:

Romans 1:18-20 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, v19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. v20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

In Hebrews we read about what Theologians call Special Revelation:

Hebrews 1:1-2 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, v2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

Everything we need to know about God HAS BEEN REVEALED.

2. GOD'S WILL CAN BE KNOWN FOR SPECIFIC SITUATIONS.

v36 Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised

Right throughout the Bible we have many examples of God directing his people to do specific things.

*Genesis 6:13-15 So **God said to Noah**, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. v14 So make yourself an ark of cypress [3] wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. v15 This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high.*

*Genesis 12:1-3 **The LORD had said to Abram**, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. v2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. v3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

*Genesis 31:11 **The angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob.'** I answered, 'Here I am.'*

*Exodus 3:4-6 When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, **God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"** And Moses said, "Here I am." v5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." v6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.*

God has a plan and purpose for each of us. Each one of us is unique in God's vision for His Kingdom.

Are we open to discover what that plan God has for each of us? There are things God expects of all of us, like witnessing, and there are specific goals we need to discover as we go through life.

3. GOD IS PATIENT AND GRACIOUS IN DEALING WITH THOSE WHO WANT TO KNOW HIS WILL.

v38 And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew--a bowlful of water. ... v40 That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew.

As I mentioned in my introduction, many scholars believe the Gideon had a very weak faith by requesting God for the different signs that he did.

Rather than criticising Gideon, I believe Gideons request was not a lack of Faith in God's ability, but rather a lack of faith in his own capacity.

Sometimes the Will of God can appear so daunting, that we wonder whether it truly is the Will of God, or whether we will have the ability to complete the task.

Jesus himself requested an alternate way on the Mount of Olives in

Luke 22:39-42 *Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. v40 On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." v41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, v42 "**Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.**"*

The Apostle Paul had a similar request in

*2 Corinthians 12:7-8 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. v8 **Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.***

I believe God would rather that we move forward with confident, triumphant faith, than uncertainty and weak faith? God is GRACIOUS and will meet you at your point of faith.

4. GOD'S WILL CAN BE KNOWN BY VARIOUS MEANS.

There are a number of different ways mentioned in the story of Gideon:

1. Angels: - *v11 The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak*
2. Revelation: - *v13 "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?'*
3. Direct Command: - *v16 The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."*
4. Worship: - *v24 So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace.*
5. Holy Spirit: - *v34 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon*
6. Signs: - *v37 look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand*

I have included a pamphlet with some guidelines in helping you discovering the WILL OF GOD.

It is not exhaustive but is a good starting point for your own discovery.

5. THE KEY TO GOD'S WILL IS NOT WHETHER IT CAN BE KNOWN BUT RATHER WHETHER IT IS DONE WHEN IT IS KNOWN.

In chapter 7-8 we will read the rest of the story of Gideon. The key to passage is what Gideon did in

Judges 7:1-7 *Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. v2 The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, v3 announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.' " **So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.** v4 But the LORD said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go." v5 So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink." v6 Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. v7 The LORD said to Gideon, "**With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands.** Let all the other men go, each to his own place."*

**GOD REDUCED THE ARMY FROM 32000 TO 300
THAT IS LESS THAN 1% 0.9375%**

It is getting to the same point as Jesus, who said

NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE BE DONE!!!

CONCLUSION

God want you to discover and do his will!

The key to it all begins with

v34 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon,

**GIDEON HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.
YOU CAN'T DO GOD'S WILL UNTIL YOU KNOW
HIM AND HIS PLAN.**