



'The Grace of God will bring Peace''

### Judges 6:17-24

*17 Gideon replied, "If now I have found favour in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. 18 Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you."*

*And the Lord said, "I will wait until you return."*

*19 Gideon went inside, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak.*

*20 The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so. 21 Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the Lord disappeared. 22 When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!"*

*23 But the Lord said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."*

*24 So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace (Jehovah Shalom). To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.*

I would like to encourage you this morning that the grace of God will bring peace in whatever situation you face. As we study the life of Gideon together we see the grace of the Lord over his life; let's study now and see how it may also apply to your life.

### The Grace of God will bring Peace

#### His grace will:-

1. Speak to you and give you a sign (i.e. confirm His word to you with power – to save and to change)...**vs. 17 & 21**
  2. Wait for you to return to Him with your offering...**vs. 18**
  3. Bring peace where there is a fear of death...**vs. 23 & 24**
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1. **The grace of the Lord will:** speak to you and give you a sign (i.e. confirm His word to you with power – to save and to change)

*17 Gideon replied, "If now I have found favour in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me..."*

*21 Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread.*

The angel of the Lord had already asked Gideon to do something impossible; he doesn't yet know how the circumstances will change when he finally decides to enter the battle! Gideon was full of doubt, caution and asked for a sign to show that it was really the Lord talking to him. Gideon then goes away to prepare an offering to the angel of the Lord.

At this point let us not accuse Gideon of lacking faith and being disobedient but rather acknowledge that his caution could be demonstrating wisdom and discernment. Fear often saves us from serious harm and is healthy unless it becomes a phobia!

Before we take on an impossible battle or go on an inappropriate adventure, based on a feeling, a whim or a dream, perhaps we would do better to learn from Gideon and not to rush off into something senseless! Perhaps it would be far more prudent to make sure it is the Lord we have heard from before taking action!

We learn a good lesson in how Gideon responded at this point.

Be certain the Lord is the one who will be with you in battle before you invest all your time, talent and treasure into something the Lord has not asked you to do – however spiritual it may seem! Give yourself time to seek the Lord's good, perfect and pleasing will before you take a step of faith.

**2. The grace of the Lord will:** wait for you until you return with your offering

*<sup>18</sup> Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you." And the Lord said, "I will wait until you return."*

Gideon goes off to prepare an offering. There are 5 types of sacrifice or offerings in the Old Testament, 3 of them voluntary:

1. **The burnt offering:** was given to express devotion to God and atonement for unintentional sin.
2. **The grain offering:** was given to express thanksgiving for provision and His unmerited goodwill toward us.
3. **The peace offering:** was given to express thanks, followed by fellowship and a shared meal.

All three were considered "peace" offerings but in themselves only a shadow of the perfect offering yet to come. That is the "Prince of Peace", Jesus, who would take away the sin of the world and bring eternal peace between repentant man and God through His life, death and resurrection.

Can you imagine the anxiety in Gideon's heart and confusion in his mind when he was asked to go in the strength he had to deliver Israel out of the hand of Midian! Especially him being the weakest of the weakest in all of Israel?

Perhaps you are you anxious and confused about a battle you might be in the midst of right now?

**Philippians 4:6-7**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

In this age of grace we are commended to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, dying daily to self. This is pleasing and acceptable to the Lord.

**Romans 12:1**

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*

If you are in the heat of battle, may I encourage you to offer thanksgiving in every situation, so His transcendent peace will guard your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus.

The battleground exists in our mind, will and by extension our emotions.

Offer also your body as a living sacrifice on the altar, which is your life dedicated to the Lord. Set it upon the rock, which is Christ Jesus.

**3. The grace of the Lord will:** Bring Peace where there is a fear of death.

*<sup>23</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."*

*<sup>24</sup> So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace... (Jehovah Shalom)*

The belief in the Old Testament was that if you had seen the face of God you would not survive and Gideon may have been terrified that he had seen God or perhaps he thought he was going to die in the battle against the Midianites.

The Lord's disciples also experienced fear and doubt as Jesus was about to leave them to be with the Father. He comforted them that He would send the Holy Spirit to calm their troubled hearts.

**John 14:27**

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

**What can we learn from the life of Gideon and how are we to apply it in our lives?**

If you are struggling with an impossible battle or one much bigger than yourself and you feel helpless to overcome it, consider the grace of God which brings peace to guard your heart and mind through faith in Christ Jesus. Remember the Lord is with you.

The Apostle Paul opens all his letters and links the grace of God to the peace of God. There must be a strong message in this greeting, if these are the two words he chooses to bring from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ each time he writes to the church.

Therefore:-

1. Listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks to you and remember the battle belongs to the Lord, so don't move forward without knowing He is with you.
2. Offer thanksgiving in all situations, also offer your body as a living sacrifice; place them upon the rock that is higher than you and I.
3. Take comfort that Jesus has promised His peace, not as the world gives it. He came to bring peace between us and our heavenly Father through faith in His Son i.e. through His life, death and resurrection.

Have you returned to the Lord and received forgiveness from Father God through placing your faith in His Son Jesus?

He brings love, joy as well as perfect peace!

AMEN