



## **Doing What We Never Thought Possible**

**June 11, 2017**

**Judges 6:11-18**

*“When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, ‘The LORD is with you, mighty warrior’” (Judges 6:12).*

God sees us as we are and what we will become. God sees us in ways we do not see ourselves and often enables us to do things we never thought possible. When the angel of the LORD, who scholars believe was Jesus Christ before he was born, met Gideon, He called him by what he would become, “mighty warrior.” Gideon truly saw his historical situation clearly. The Israelites had been oppressed by the Midianites for seven years. Their enemies stole their wheat, sheep, and cattle, and forced them to hide in caves and starve whenever they invaded the Promised Land. Gideon saw himself as the least in his family in the smallest clan in his tribe. He was filled with fears and uncertainties. Though his family had a threshing floor, Gideon used their winepress to hide whenever he thrashed their wheat. To him the future looked hopeless. When God first spoke to Gideon, He addressed him according to what Gideon would become, not as Gideon saw himself. God encouraged Gideon by saying He was with him and would stay with him. God gave Gideon a series of specific

commands that Gideon obeyed. God helped Gideon overcome all his insecurities by helping him tear down the idols in his hometown, and together they changed history. Together, Gideon recruited an army. Together, they reduced the number of Israelite soldiers from thousands to 300. Together, they defeated thousands of Midianite soldiers and the Midianites never threatened Israel again; so, Gideon became a mighty warrior. Gideon was not mighty overnight, but Gideon's valor illustrates what God can do through those who trust and obey Him.

### **Thinking Further**

1. From your reading and study of Judges 6:11-18, who appeared to Gideon at the oak?
2. From reading Judges 6:1-18, how did God prepare the people and Gideon for their salvation through Gideon?
3. Do you think Gideon and his family were rich or poor? Give a reason for your answer.

4. How did God encourage Gideon?

5. When would it be wrong to ask God for a sign?

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