

## **Devotional: Day 9: Be The Change We Want To Become**

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**Reading:** Judges 6

I sat on the train on my way home from work, reflecting on my day. I was feeling low again - why did I do that? Why did I say that? How could I have missed that? I was feeling useless, questioning my abilities, questioning my capabilities, thinking that everyone must know how stupid I am.

And then it hit me: I don't have to think this way. God doesn't think of me this way, so what do I have to put myself down?

Think of Gideon. He was a man who didn't think much of himself. In his own words he was the least in his clan.

Imagine the setting - a man living in daily fear of having his possessions and food taken by the Midianites. He was hiding in a winepress to thresh wheat, because he knew if the Midianites caught him, his wheat would be taken and he would probably be killed. This was not a bold man, this was a scared man. So, you can imagine his surprise and disbelief when an angel of the Lord came to him (why him of all people?) and called him a mighty warrior?

**Judges 6:12 (NIV):** "When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.""

Then the angel told him he would be used by God to save Israel! Him? The coward hiding in a winepress? Gideon thought he must be mistaken.

**Judges 6:15 (NIV):** "But Lord, " Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

He not only thought he was weak, but his whole clan too!

Gideon had to test God a couple of times with a fleece before he would believe he was the chosen one, but he carried the task God set before him. He went with only 300 men, and defeated the Midianites. He BECAME the mighty warrior God said he was, but he first had to BELIEVE he was that person, before he eventually became it; he had to live in the knowledge of what God has proclaimed remind himself daily of who he was.

When God first chose the Israelites as His people, He called them holy:

**Deuteronomy 7:6 (NIV):** "For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be His people, His treasured possession."

**Leviticus 11:44 (NIV):** "I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves about on the ground." Even though He called them holy, He still wanted them to live as holy people - just as He wants us to do.

We are too quick to put ourselves down, telling ourselves we can't do certain things, or can't achieve certain things. We look at our situations and our circumstances, but forget to look to God. We need to hold onto what GOD says about us in His Word.

***We need to know that:***

***We are bold: Proverbs 28:1 (NIV):*** “The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.”

***We are beautiful creations: Psalm 139:14 (NIV):*** “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

***We are protected: Psalm 91***

***We are blessed with spiritual blessings: Ephesians 1:3 (NIV):*** “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

***We are forgiven and have been redeemed: Ephesians 1:7 (NIV):***

*“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace”*

There are so many things God says we are, we just need to hold onto and believe are true. We not only need to speak those things over ourselves but over each other, so we edify and build one another up.

***Proverbs 18:21(NIV):*** “The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”

In this month of prayer, let's continue to believe God's Word over our lives and **be the change we want to become**. Let's edify one another and lift each other up before God so we can be effective for His kingdom.