

## WHAT TIME I AM AFRAID!

Psalm 56:1-13

INTRODUCTION: Fear is what the enemy uses to try and keep us from doing what our God has called us to do. Humans get afraid. Even King David who had fought with Goliath has his times of fear: Psalm 56:3. When we step out in our faith is when our God shows up and shows Himself strong on our behalf! Matthew 9:28-29 tells us that God operates in accordance with our faith. Tonight, we will look at a Barney Fife kind of a man in Scripture; Gideon to see how to step out in faith and see God strong in us and through us. Judges 6:1-6; Judges 6:11-14. Gideon was a very fearful recipient of the Word of God but Gideon pushed through his fears and did become a mighty man of God. How can you and I push through our fears and become mighty men and women of God?

### i. REMEMBER THE LORD'S PRESENCE!

First, we must remember our Lord's promise to always be present with us. Because God had promised to with Gideon it was sure that he could and would defeat the Midianites. Psalm 51:10-11: The Lord had departed from King Saul and David did not want that to happen to him. We do not need to worry about that today: John 14:16-20; Hebrews 13:5-6. Remember that God does not expect you to be able to do what He is calling you to do: John 15:4-5; Psalm 23:1-3; Psalm 23:4; when it comes to the scary stuff David rejoices that God is with him. When we take that first step of faith in obedience to the call of God we will see His arms wide open to us. Judges 6:34-35; when the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon he became Gideon's provision. The testing of our faith is will we step forward to do what our God has called us to do? God does not like it when we chose not to live by faith and instead to live by sight! When we chose to not obey the Father it is a prodigal son leaving the Father choice and it always leads to the pigsty. Proverbs 16:25

### II. GOD'S PEACE IN THE MIDST OF OUR FEARS!

We can feel fear and still chose to obey anyway. Judges 6:17-23; Judges 6:24-27. Gideon is still afraid but he is now obeying the Lord his God. Yes, because of fear Gideon obeyed God at night; but he did obey! Our fear is ok as long as our faith is stronger: 2 Timothy 1:7. If you wait to obey the Lord when you have no fear you will never obey the Lord. Even the apostle Paul served and obey the Lord through his fear: 1 Corinthians 2:3. Our God is pleased when we take just baby steps of faith. Giving to the Lord can cause fear in many hearts: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. Faith is like a muscle; you have to use it for it to get stronger!

### III. TRUST IN GOD'S PATIENCE AND LOVING KINDNESS!

We can trust our God to patiently and lovingly reassure us: Judges 6:16-17. That did not take away all of Gideon's fear: Judges 6:36-38; Judges 6:39-40. God wanted Gideon and the nation of Israel to know that it was God winning the battle against the Midianites and not Israel so He thinned Gideon's army down from 32,000 soldiers to 300. Gideon is full of fear again so God gives him some reassurance: Judges 7:9-15. When we are full of fear and need to push through God will give us reassurance too. When we begin to take our baby steps of faith, God will be with us and reassure us as well. 1 Chronicles 16:9; Isaiah 40:28-31