

# LIFE IN THE SIN CYCLE

*(A Study in the Book of Judges)*

Pembroke Bible Chapel  
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Judges Message #9  
Speaker: Mark Floyd

## GIDEON'S 300 (Judges 7)

### LESS IS MORE (1-15)

- Gideon assembles a large army in preparation to win the victory that God promised to Israel (1; *Judges 6:34-35*).
- An army of 32,000 men would bring glory to man, not God (2).
- The LORD reduces the army to just 300 men (3-8).
- Gideon receives another sign of the pending victory (9-15).

### VICTORY THROUGH GRACE (15-25)

- With trumpets, clay jars and torches, the LORD brings panic on the enemy and defeats them (15-25; *Hebrews 11:32-34*).
- Similar victories occur elsewhere in Scripture...
  - Jehoshaphat (*"The LORD Judges"*; 2 *Chronicles 20*)
  - Armageddon (*Joel 3; Haggai 2:22; Zech 12:1-9; 14:1-15; Revelation 16:13-16; 19:11-21*)
    - *enemy multitude self-destructs*
    - *victory belongs to God, not man*

### WEAK VESSELS (2 Corinthians 4:3-12)

- Imagery in 2 Corinthians 4 is similar to Judges 7.
- Christ is the Light that indwells Christians (4,6,7; *Col 1:27*).
- We possess God's power in our weak vessels (7; *Eph 3:16*).
  - *the glory is God's, not ours (1 Cor 1:26-31)*
- Light/power is revealed when the vessel is broken (8-11).
- Identification with Christ in His suffering/death is prerequisite to experiencing His resurrection life/power (8-11; *Gal 2:20*).
  - *our "natural man" must be broken/crucified (made weak) in order for us to minister the light/life/power of Christ toward others (12)*

## APPLICATION

We all experience failure, discouragement and oppression, especially when we choose to live our lives in our own strength, rather than trusting God. These obstacles are too big for us to overcome in our own power. Nothing is too big for God. No enemy can stand against Him. Are you willing to trust in His (and only His) power, for victory?

God works in ways that are mysterious and counter-intuitive to the human mind. His goal is always to reveal and glorify Himself. This is best accomplished when we are put in a position of weakness in the face of insurmountable odds (e.g., David and Goliath). Is your human reasoning standing in the way of victory?

Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ possess the indwelling Holy Spirit, who possesses all of God's power. What gets in the way of that power being revealed? We do. Just as a clay jar blocks a light source inside of it, our human nature obstructs the revelation of Christ in us. God will intentionally put us in a position of human weakness, so that He can bring glory to Himself through victory. He has done this with many, including Israel, Job, Joseph, Shamgar, Deborah, Barak, Gideon, Samson, David, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Daniel, Peter, Paul and Jesus Christ. This is the way of the cross. Has your jar been broken?

What enemy is God calling you to overcome? Is the foe too big for you? Do you lack the ability to bring victory to yourself? Good. You're in the perfect position to triumph. Now all that you need to do is trust in the One who has made us more than conquerors (*Romans 8:37*). Remember, victory will always come in God's way and according to His timing. Our faith will be tested. We have need of enduring, patient faith (*Hebrews 10:36*).

*"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not us." (2 Corinthians 4:7)*