



Tuesday, June 12, 2007

THE POWER OF LESS

Judges 7:2 – 7 (AMP)

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- Our study on "The Power of Less" examines how, at times, we are empowered by God to do more with less resources.
- At times, we can buy more with less money, get more done in less time, and be much happier with fewer friends.
- The word "*less*" means, *to a smaller extent, amount, or degree*.
- Unfortunately, too many of us associate success with quantity or size; such as big houses, fancy cars, a lot of money, and even mega churches.
- However, it is important for us to realize that there are some messed-up families living in big houses, financially broke folks driving fancy cars, miserable people with lots of money, and even evil people perpetrate as Christians in mega churches.
- From our scriptural text, we learn a great lesson about the "power of less."
- Our text involves a man named **Gideon**, who like Samson, was a man of destiny.
- Dr. John G. Butler, in his biography "Gideon, a Champion of the Underdog," says Gideon was a "nobody, yet he was called to lead the Nation of Israel's mighty foe, the Midianites."
- Gideon's life is a great inspiration to all of us who have a desire to do great things, but lack the resources we think we need to accomplish our goals.
- Unlike Samson, Gideon did not realize the anointing that was on his life.
- Gideon did not come from a prominent family, and did not think he was worthy to be used by God. (Judges 6:15–16)AMP
- However, the Lord demonstrated to Gideon and to all of Israel that the power to succeed does not come from your family tree, or the size of your army, but from God, the source of your strength.
- Let us examine just how Gideon was empowered by God to do more with less.

- The Midianites invaded the land of Israel with 135,000 men. Previously, when this happened the people would run and hide, but not this time.
- This time God called Gideon to recruit an army and confront their enemy, the Midianites.
- When Gideon blew his trumpet to call Israel to battle, some 32,000 men showed up.
- From God's perspective, 32,000 men were too many. Gideon did not need that many men to do what God had called him to do.
- God tells Gideon that if they prevailed with 32,000 men, then they would think that they did it themselves.
- God gives Gideon instructions on how to reduce the size of his army.
- First, he tells him to say to all those that are fearful and afraid to go home.
- Twenty-two thousand immediately turned around and went back.
- In my book, *A World of Possibilities*, I write that fear is an enemy of our possibilities.
- Fear paralyzes, and it is contagious. If you are going to succeed in life, then you must separate yourself from those who spread fear.
- Next, God tells Gideon that even the ten thousand men that are left are too many.
- The manner in which the remaining soldiers drank water from the brook was the final test to reduce the size of Gideon's army.
- According to Dr. Butler, this test eliminated those who were careless and lacked caution.
- After the drinking test, there remained only 300 in Gideon's army.
- The size had been reduced from 32,000 to 300 to fight against the army of the Midianites, which totaled 135,000.
- But look at what God says to Gideon, "By these three hundred men will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand."
- Remember, your success is not based on how much you have, or the number of people in your life.
- As David says in Psalm 121:2, "my help comes from the Lord."
- "The Power of Less"