

1. It costs when you do not listen to and obey the Words of the Lord.

Judges 6:1-2 NIV

“The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds.”



2. The Lord showed up when I least expected Him.

Judges 6:11 NIV

“The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.”

3. I too wondered if God still cares, still intervenes, and still works miracles.

Judges 6:13 NIV

“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

4. We do better when we take our focus off of ourselves and focus on the Lord.

Judges 6:15 NIV

“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

5. Family of origin issues are real.

Judges 6:15 NIV

“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

6. There was a huge disconnect between the way I saw myself and the way the Lord saw me.

Judges 6:12,14 NIV

‘When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”

“The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

7. We should expect the Lord’s presence and power to manifest in our lives in response to our worship.

Judges 6:18,33

“Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you. And the Lord said, “I will wait until you return.”

Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him.”

8. I learned to put first things first.

Judges 6:24-26

“So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

That same night the Lord said to him, “Take the second bull from your father’s herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your father’s altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. Then build a proper kind of altar to the Lord your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the prize bull as a burnt offering.”

9. I do not know why the Lord put up with my games, but I am so glad He did.

Judges 6:17-18

“Gideon replied, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you.”

Judges 6:36-40 NIV

“Gideon said to God, “If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised— look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said.” And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.

“Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece, but this time make the fleece dry and let the ground be

covered with dew." That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew."

10. Sometimes it is our weaknesses, rather than our strengths that encourage others.

Hebrews 11:32-34

"And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies."