

Present Reality ... VS ... Full Potential

[The Journey of Gideon]

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Scene #1:

When the Israelites cried to the LORD because of Midian, he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I snatched you from the power of Egypt and from the hand of all your oppressors. I drove them

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Scene #1:

from before you and gave you their land. I said to you, 'I am the LORD your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me."

The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where



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Scene #1:

his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."



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Scene #1:

"But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian."



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Scene #1:

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?"

"But Lord , " Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."



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Scene #1:

The LORD answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me."

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Scene #1:

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."

Judges 6:7-18 (NIV)

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Scene #1:

Consider a time that you ...

- > *lacked confidence*
- > *didn't feel safe*
- > *covered in fear*
- > *doubted God*

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Scene #2:

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

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Scene #2:

pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering."

So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD told him. But because he was afraid of his family and the men of the town, he did it at night rather than in the daytime.



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Scene #2:

In the morning when the men of the town got up, there was Baal's altar, demolished, with the Asherah pole beside it cut down and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar!

They asked each other, "Who did this?"



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Scene #2:

When they carefully investigated, they were told, "Gideon son of Joash did it."

The men of the town demanded of Joash, "Bring out your son. He must die, because he has broken down Baal's altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it."



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Scene #2:

But Joash replied to the hostile crowd around him, "Are you going to plead Baal's cause? Are you trying to save him? Whoever fights for him shall be put to death by morning! If Baal really is a god, he can defend himself when someone breaks down his altar."



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Scene #2:

So that day they called Gideon "Jerub-Baal," saying, "Let Baal contend with him," because he broke down Baal's altar.

Judges 6:25-32 (NIV)

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Scene #2:

Was there a time when you feared the response of others to something you did?

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Scene #3:

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.



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Scene #3:

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. This time make the



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Scene #3:

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

Judges 6:36-40 (NIV)



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Scene #3:

Have you ever asked God for a sign that He was asking you to do something for Him?



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Scene #4:

During that night the LORD said to Gideon, "Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, you will be encouraged to attack the camp." So he

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Scene #4:

and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp. The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore.

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Scene #4:

Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. "I had a dream," he was saying. "A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed."



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Scene #4:

His friend responded, "This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands."

When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God.



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Scene #4:

He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands."

Judges 7:9-15 (NIV)

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Scene #4:

God understands our
PRESENT REALITY

God wants us to experience our
FULL POTENTIAL

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Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches

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in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.

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When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the LORD caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords.

Judges 7:19-22 (NIV)

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