

Red Hill Baptist Church
Bible Study: November 15, 2023
***Listen To the Holy Spirit for Directions on
How To Manifest Your Potential: Judges 6:12***
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**Judges 6:12 - And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him
"The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!"**

INTRODUCTION

How many of you are seeking direction from God about your purpose and future?

There are dormant abilities and qualities within you that you may not have tapped into yet to further your success or usefulness for God's use in your life. So we have to start by listening to the Holy Spirit to develop the potential.

BACKGROUND OF THE TEXT

In the book of Judges, Gideon was hiding his potential by hiding behind the winepress threshing out the wheat for fear of the Midianites, who were enemies to God and God's people. Here he was a fearful man, knees knocking and intimidated until the angel of the Lord appeared unto him and spoke to him calling him a "man of valor." He was the least in his family, but God saw potential in him that no one else could see. He became a great leader because he listened to the angel of the Lord and expanded his potential.

Whether we realize it or not, we have potential, unused strengths, hidden talents, untapped abilities, dormant gifts waiting to burst out of us.

What do we need to do in order to hear directions from the Holy Spirit on how to manifest our potential?

I. WORK WHILE YOU WAIT

Probably one of the hardest parts of hearing from the Lord about direction in our lives is waiting. Even when it comes to receiving his blessings and manifesting our purpose, it is a part of our human and fleshly nature to be impatient.

While we are waiting to hear from the Holy Spirit, we are to be working. Work in the areas you know you are capable of at the present moment.

Judges 6:11 Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites.

The Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon not while he was sitting around idle and waiting for something to happen, but while Gideon was working. There are several instances throughout the Bible where the Lord appeared and spoke to those while they were working. God called Moses and David from following the sheep, Elisha from the plough-trail, and the apostles from fishing and fixing their nets. God speaks to the busy through visions while Satan grabs those who are idle through temptations.

Today, God uses His Word, other people, dreams, visions, situations, and even movies, tv, or music. He can also speak to us in a still small voice. But only those who know the Lord can recognize his voice.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me

Gideon used what he had to do what he had to do! There was greater coming his way that he wasn't even aware of, but he was working while he waited.

What are you doing while you wait on the Lord? What resources do you have available to you now? What gifts are you aware of that you can be using?

II. FORGET ABOUT YOUR FLAWS

Many times when the Holy Spirit speaks to with some type of direction, our repose may be "but Lord I can't because of this or that." We tend to focus on our inadequacies and doubt our own ability, and sometimes God's ability.

Judges 6:12 - And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him "The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!"

This was a strange greeting to Gideon. It didn't seem like the Lord was with him and it didn't seem that he was a mighty man of valor. Gideon might have turned to see if there was another person the angel was speaking to.

The angel had to face three objections before Gideon was convinced: (1) Gideon's feelings of responsibility for his family's welfare, (2) his doubts about the call itself, and (3) his feelings of inadequacy for the job.

This fear that enters our mind is only from the enemy. He does not want to see the Lord's work manifested in our lives. He doesn't want us to manifest our potential.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

These doubts and feelings of inadequacy are all lies from the devil, as he is the father of lies (John 8:44). But we know that God has not given us the spirit of fear. If He gives us a task or reveals something to us, it is because He is able to accomplish whatever he has set forth to do in our lives and He would never give us something that we couldn't handle.

What are some doubts and fears that you may have concerning God's plan to manifest your potential?

III. TRUST IN THE LORD'S TRUTH

Everything that the Holy Spirit speaks to us is truth. We must be willing to trust in His truth.

Numbers 23:19 NLT God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?

Gideon heard about the great works of God in the past, yet he wondered why he did not see the same great works in his day.

Judges 6:13 Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

Gideon thought the problem was with God, not with him and with the nation of Israel as a whole. In truth, Israel forsook God – God did not forsake Israel.

Once Gideon was convinced, he obeyed with zest, resourcefulness, and speed. He dedicated those personality traits to God, with whom he was now personally acquainted. Everything the Lord told him to do through Judges, Gideon did. He had to endure some challenges along the way, but he kept his trust in the Lord's promise to save him and deliver Israel from the Midianites.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Psalm 50:15 You can let doubt, fear, and worry overtake you, or you can call upon the Lord. God has promised that if you call upon Him, He will deliver you.

Gideon trusted and God delivered.

Trusting God for his direction can be hard because we don't know all the details up front. We don't now exactly where He's leading us or how we are to get there. He just wants us to trust the process.

Are you truly willing to trust God and his promises for your life? Once you say yes to Him, believe that He will guide you with His Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION

The Lord wants to awaken and use those dormant gifts within you. They are not dead, but asleep. The people claimed that Lazarus was dead, but Jesus said no, he is sleeping. He spoke to Lazarus and he got up! We must be willing to work while we wait, forget about the flaws, and trust in the Lord's truth.

Gideon had a limited vision, but he was committed to it. His challenge was to obtain food for his family even though hostile invaders were making the growing, gathering, and preparation of the food almost impossible. Yet, Gideon was resourceful. God's guidance can come in the midst of—and in response to—one's present situation.

Gideon had his weak moments and failures, but he was still God's servant. If you can easily relate to Gideon's weakness, can you also see yourself being willing to serve? Remember Gideon as a man who obeyed God by giving his attention to the task at hand. Then give your full attention to believing that God will have prepared you for tomorrow when it comes.