

SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH
SERMON, 12 MARCH 2023

STRENGTH *in weakness*

Judges 6:36 - 7:22

CHEN SU-AI



BATTLES IN LIFE

**ANYTHING THAT BRINGS
CHALLENGES TO US**

(Can be physical, spiritual, emotional or mental)

#1 GOD PREPARES US

Gideon's steps of faith and obedience:

1. Judges 6:25-27

²⁵ Now it came to pass the same night that the LORD said to him, "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and **tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it;...**"

#1 GOD PREPARES US

2. Judges 6:34-35

³⁴ But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him. ³⁵ And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered behind him. He also sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up to meet them.

#1 GOD PREPARES US

When God prepares us, He also demonstrates patience.

Judges 6:36-40: The sign of the fleece

Gideon needed repeated reassurances and signs.

God patiently strengthens Gideon
in the weakness of his faith.

#2 GOD CAN BE TRUSTED

Judges 7:2

² And the Lord said to Gideon, **“The people who are with you are too many** for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, **lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’**”

God will not share His glory with any other.

#2 GOD CAN BE TRUSTED

Judges 7:3

³ Now therefore, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, **‘Whoever is fearful and afraid, let him turn and depart at once from Mount Gilead.’** ” And **twenty-two thousand of the people returned,** and ten thousand remained.

#2 GOD CAN BE TRUSTED

God can be trusted, we need to move from fear to faith.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

#2 GOD CAN BE TRUSTED

Judges 7:9-11

⁹ It happened on the same night that the Lord said to him, “Arise, go down against the camp, for I have delivered it into your hand. ¹⁰ **But if you are afraid to go down, go down to the camp with Purah your servant,** ¹¹ and you shall hear what they say; and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to go down against the camp.” **Then he went down with Purah his servant to the outpost of the armed men who were in the camp.**

4 AREAS:

1. Uncertain of the future

Jeremiah 29:11-13

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.

4 AREAS:

1. Uncertain of the future

Isaiah 41:10

‘Fear not, for I am with you;

Be not dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you,

Yes, I will help you,

I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’

4 AREAS:

1. Uncertain of the Future
2. Uncertain of God's Acceptance

4 AREAS:

1. Uncertain of the Future
2. Uncertain of God's Acceptance
3. Ministry Hurts

4 AREAS:

1. Uncertain of the Future
2. Uncertain of God's Acceptance
3. Ministry Hurts
4. Fear of Encountering God

**Respond to the steadfast love of the Father.
God can be trusted.**

#3 GOD FIGHTS OUR BATTLES FOR US

Judges 7:4-8

The 2nd reduction exercise, from 10,000 to 300 men.

The reduction of the size of the army brought the people to a place of total dependence on God and not on their abilities and resources.

**In reducing Gideon's army,
God was strengthening Gideon's faith.**

#3 GOD FIGHTS OUR BATTLES FOR US

Judges 7:21

²¹ And every man **stood** in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled.

#3 GOD FIGHTS OUR BATTLES FOR US

Exodus 14:13-14

¹³ And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. **Stand still**, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ¹⁴ **The LORD will fight for you**, and you shall hold your peace.”

#3 GOD FIGHTS OUR BATTLES FOR US

2 Chronicles 20:17

¹⁷ **You will not *need* to fight in this *battle*.** Position yourselves, **stand still** and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you...

When we come to an end of ourselves, then God's power can be displayed in our weakness.

#3 GOD FIGHTS OUR BATTLES FOR US

In our battles in life, turn to God.

In our victories, remember to give God the glory.

Remember that the glory belongs to Him
because it is His hand that delivers us.

#3 GOD FIGHTS OUR BATTLES FOR US

What is our part?

Fighting our battles in life is to fight them in God's strength and in God's ways.

Pray. Wait on Him. Depend on Him.
Trust and Obey.

#3 GOD FIGHTS OUR BATTLES FOR US

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (AMP)

⁹ but He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you [My lovingkindness and My mercy are more than enough—always available—regardless of the situation]; for [My] power is being perfected [and is completed and shows itself most effectively] in [your] weakness.” Therefore, I will all the more gladly boast in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ [may completely enfold me and] may dwell in me. ¹⁰ So I am well pleased with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, and with difficulties, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak [in human strength], then I am strong [truly able, truly powerful, truly drawing from God’s strength].

#3 GOD FIGHTS OUR BATTLES FOR US

Judges 7:15

¹⁵ And so it was, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, that **he worshiped**. He returned to the camp of Israel, and said, “Arise, for the LORD has delivered the camp of Midian into your hand.”

Worship God in the midst of our battles in life.
Our obedience is the worship we offer to God.

CONCLUSION

#1 GOD PREPARES US

#2 GOD CAN BE TRUSTED

#3 GOD FIGHTS OUR BATTLES FOR US

CONCLUSION

Making courageous decisions to obey God with the Holy Spirit's help does not mean that we are going to cruise on to victory.

All of us have feet of clay.

We need to guard the condition of our hearts.

IN CHRIST ALONE

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou Music

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

IN CHRIST ALONE

Keith Getty | Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou Music

What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

IN CHRIST ALONE

Don Koch | Shawn Craig © 1990 New Spring

In Christ alone will I glory
Though I could pride myself in battles won
For I've been blessed beyond measure
And by His strength alone I'll overcome

IN CHRIST ALONE

Don Koch | Shawn Craig © 1990 New Spring

And oh, I could stop and count successes
Like diamonds in my hands
But those trophies could not equal
To the grace by which I stand

IN CHRIST ALONE

Don Koch | Shawn Craig © 1990 New Spring

In Christ alone
I place my trust
And find my glory
In the power of the cross
In every victory
Let it be said of me
My source of strength
My source of hope
Is Christ alone