

FATHERS, FELLAS & THE FAVOR OF GOD

Blessings Beyond the Battlefield

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*"For everything in the world - the lust of the flesh, the
lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -
comes not from the Father but from the world." 1 John 2:16*

Note: The three enemies of every believer remains the World, the Flesh, and the Devil, and they often show up in different ways for men and women today.

Text: Judges 7:1-22

I. BATTLES, BATTLEFIELDS AND DELAYED BLESSINGS Jdgs. 7:1,2

Women often battle:

Security
Stress
Self-worth
Comparison
Worry

Men often battle:

Significance
Strength
Success
Sexual temptation
Spiritual leadership

Note:
Sometimes God reduces what we trust in, so God can increase what we trust Him for

II. LESSONS ON THE BATTLEFIELD Jdgs 7:3

Gideon's Army: 32,000 men
Enemy Army: 135,000 men (Judges 8:10)
4 to 1 against Gideon, before God intervened

Key point:
Every father, family member, etc. finds themselves in a battle, or on a battlefield of some kind, from time to time.

III. WHEN GOD "ADDS"... THROUGH SUBTRACTION

"The people with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands." Jdgs. 7:2

He said there were too many.

Reduction #1: Fearful Men Leave

- 22,000 leave
 - 10,000 remain
- Nearly 70%
of the army went home. Jdg. 7:3

Note:
Fear disqualifies many from God's greatest victories, when we allow fear to speak louder than faith!

Key point: "The Lord rebuke you" Jude 9
(to express strong disapproval of someone's behavior or actions)

IV. READINESS AT THE RIVER Jdgs. 7:4-7

Reduction #2: 10,000 become 300 (9,700 more are dismissed)

Now the odds become: **300 vs. 135,000** = roughly **450 to 1**.

Key point: God often reduces our resources, so we can more readily recognize His power.

V. WHAT GOD TAKES AWAY - HE REPLACES

God removed 31,700 soldiers - but He replaced them with:

His <u>Promises</u>	His Presence	His <u>Power</u>
↓	↓	↓
<u>Resides</u> Rev 21:3	<u>Renews</u> Heb 13:5	<u>Restores</u> 1 Pet.5:10