**I Can Do All Things Through Christ**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Philippians 4:13**

**Sunday Morning**

**March 23, 2025**

**Philippians 4:13**

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”

**Truth About God**

God can use anyone

**Truth For My Life**

I am able to do impossible things with God

**Judges 6:1-40**

1 Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years, 2 and the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves the dens, the caves, and the strongholds which are in the mountains.

3 So it was, whenever Israel had sown, Midianites would come up; also Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them. 4 Then they would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the earth as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep nor ox nor donkey.

5 For they would come up with their livestock and their tents, coming in as numerous as locusts; both they and their camels were without number; and they would enter the land to destroy it.

6 So Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. 7 And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried out to the LORD because of the Midianites, 8 that the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage;

9 and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. 10 Also I said to you, "I am the LORD your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell." But you have not obeyed My voice.' "

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. 12 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!"

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." 14 Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"

15 So he said to Him, "O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." 16 And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man." 17 Then he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, then show me a sign that it is You who talk with me.

18 Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You." And He said, "I will wait until you come back." 19 So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them.

20 The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. 21 Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.

22 Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face." 23 Then the LORD said to him, "Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die." 24 So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it The-LORD-Is-Peace. To this day it is still in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

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; 26 and build an altar to the LORD your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down."

27 So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the LORD had said to him. But because he feared his father's household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night. 28 And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, there was the altar of Baal, torn down; and the wooden image that was beside it was cut down, and the second bull was being offered on the altar which had been built.

29 So they said to one another, "Who has done this thing?" And when they had inquired and asked, they said, "Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing." 30 Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has torn down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the wooden image that was beside it."

31 But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Would you plead for Baal? Would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down!" 32 Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, "Let Baal plead against him, because he has torn down his altar."

33 Then all the Midianites and Amalekites, the people of the East, gathered together; and they crossed over and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. 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.

36 So Gideon said to God, "If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said-- 37 look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said." 38 And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water.

39 Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew." 40 And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.

**Judges 7:1-25**

1 Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the well of Harod, so that the camp of the Midianites was on the north side of them by the hill of Moreh in the valley. 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.'

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. 4 But the LORD said to Gideon, "The people are still too many; bring them down to the water, and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' the same shall not go."

5 So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink." 6 And the number of those who lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, was three hundred men; but all the rest of the people got down on their knees to drink water.

7 Then the LORD said to Gideon, "By the three hundred men who lapped I will save you, and deliver the Midianites into your hand. Let all the other people go, every man to his place." 8 So the people took provisions and their trumpets in their hands. And he sent away all the rest of Israel, every man to his tent, and retained those three hundred men. Now the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

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.

12 Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude. 13 And when Gideon had come, there was a man telling a dream to his companion. He said, "I have had a dream: To my surprise, a loaf of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian; it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell and overturned, and the tent collapsed."

14 Then his companion answered and said, "This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel! Into his hand God has delivered Midian and the whole camp." 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."

16 Then he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet into every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and torches inside the pitchers.

17 And he said to them, "Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: 18 When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, 'The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!' "

19 So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands.

20 Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers--they held the torches in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hands for blowing--and they cried, "The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!" 21 And every man stood in his place all around the camp; and the whole army ran and cried out and fled.

22 When the three hundred blew the trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his companion throughout the whole camp; and the army fled to Beth Acacia, toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel Meholah, by Tabbath. 23 And the men of Israel gathered together from Naphtali, Asher, and all Manasseh, and pursued the Midianites.

24 Then Gideon sent messengers throughout all the mountains of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against the Midianites, and seize from them the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan." Then all the men of Ephraim gathered together and seized the watering places as far as Beth Barah and the Jordan.

25 And they captured two princes of the Midianites, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued Midian and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of the Jordan.

**God Called Gideon**

Saints, the story of Gideon demonstrates that God can use anyone to do great, even impossible works. God alone knows the full potential of each individual.

Many times potential remains hidden from us and from others. Because God is our Creator, He knows how our individual qualities correspond to His ultimate plan.

Like God called Gideon, He invites us to be part of what He is doing, despite how impressive or unimpressive our résumé or pedigree may be because victory or success rests in His power.

He invites humanity to partner with Him, and His Spirit will make up the difference where we lack.

**Gideon Was the Weakest of His Tribe and Least in**

**His Father’s House**

Saints, Gideon described himself by what he and others could see:

**Judges 6:15**

“My family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house”

Gideon’s family was one of the poorest in the tribe of Manasseh, and his clan was one of the weakest, and he was the lowest of all of them.

The lowest of the lowest clan of a poor family—not exactly what most recruiters would look for to lead their army.

From Gideon’s perspective, God did not have much to work with, but from God’s perspective, it was just enough.

**The Lord Was with Gideon**

Saints, while Gideon fired off a list of reasons God should call someone else, God patiently listened, lovingly ignored his excuses, and responded by assuring Gideon:

**Judges 6:16**

“I will be with you”

Saints, basically He was saying,

**“Where you lack, I am more than enough.”**

Gideon assessed the situation from the perspective of what he had to offer, and God assessed it from what He and Gideon would do together.

Later in the story, the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon (Judges 6:34), like it came on others in the Old Testament when they were called to perform a task or were ordained for an office.

**Judges 6:34**

But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him.

Saints, since the Day of Pentecost and the birth of the church, the Holy Spirit is a gift for everyone who rightly responds to the gospel of Jesus Christ, not just to individuals in specific roles.

One role of the Spirit is the same now as it was for Gideon; the Spirit equips God’s servants to do the work He has called us to do

**Acts 1:8**

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

**1 Corinthians 12:7-10**

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit,

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

**I Will Remember God Is with Me When He Calls Me**

As God invites us to partner with Him to fulfill His plan and carry out His mission, He wants us to remember He is with us and has fully equipped us through the power of His Spirit.

Daily aligning our hearts and minds with His purpose will help us when we feel outmatched by the task or opportunity in front of us.

In our own strength, we will feel incapable, but as we are learning from Gideon, our willingness plus God’s power equals victory.

**God Thinned Gideon’s Army**

Saints, God had a purpose in using Gideon and not Israel’s strongest, most seasoned and strategic warrior. Likewise, when it came to the army God used to defeat the Midianites,

He did not want big numbers. Gideon began with an army of 32,000 men, but the Midianites boasted an army so large it could not be counted.

They stopped counting at 120,000 enemy soldiers. Then the story took a strange twist. God told Gideon he had too many men.

**God shrunk his army from 32,000 to 300**

God did not want to share His Glory! The only way to show Israel that God won this war for them was to thin out the ranks. So God and Gideon did.

**God Fights Our Battles**

Saints, throughout the Old Testament, we see God depicted as a holy warrior fighting for His people. Moses told the Israelites who were being hunted down by angry Egyptians:

**Exodus 14:14**

“The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace”

Saints, the Levite Jahaziel told King Jehoshaphat’s army:

**II Chronicles 20:15–17**

“The battle is not yours, but God’s. . . . You shall not need to fight in this battle”

Saints, King Hezekiah boldly declared:

**II Chronicles 32:8**

“With us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles”

Saints, though we may not be fighting flesh-and-blood armies like Israel did, God invites us to rest in Him and His power.

When He wins, only God gets the glory because God fights the battle.

**God Encouraged Gideon and Defeated the Enemy**

Saints, Gideon marched his miniature army to the armory for the weapons. Once again God spoke to Gideon to share some more “interesting news.” He started handing out water pitchers, torches, and trumpets.

A few soldiers thought Gideon should have spent more time in the Situation Room.

The fearsome Israelite army was a band of three hundred men with pitchers, torches, and trumpets—and Almighty God.

That is all Gideon had to go to war with. God encouraged him:

**Judges 7:9**

“Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into your hand”

**God Knows Our Fears**

Like Gideon, we may respond to God’s invitation to join His great and grand plan. A most encouraging verse in the Bible is

**Psalm 103:14**

“For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.”

God knows our human emotions will get the better of us and paralyze us at times.

The way God interacted with Gideon demonstrates how God will work with us right where we are.

God is not bothered by or surprised by our humanity; He knows we often fear and doubt.

He is simply calling us to trust Him even in those moments.

**God Fought for Gideon and He will Fight for You**

Saints, Gideon returned to his micro army with newfound courage. He divided his three-hundred man army into three companies and ensured each soldier carried a torch to put inside an empty pitcher, and he gave them a trumpet to sound. He instructed them:

**Judges 7:17–18**

17 And he said to them, "Look at me and do likewise; watch, and when I come to the edge of the camp you shall do as I do: 18 When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp, and say, 'The sword of the LORD and of Gideon!' "

Saints, even if they played clarinet in fifth grade band, they were a trumpeter that night. Gideon wanted the enemy to know God was fighting for Israel.

Right around midnight, and on Gideon’s signal, the Israelites blew the trumpets, broke the pitchers, and shouted their war cry.

Suddenly God rose up and sent the enemy into a panic. They were so confused, so surprised, they drew their swords on each other.

Most Midianites died of “friendly fire.” Others ran for their lives from a fistful of people with pitchers and torches and trumpets.

Remember, these were the same Midianites who had bullied Israel and destroyed their crops for the last seven years.

But God was fighting for Israel, and Midian did not stand a chance. When Gideon realized he had the enemy armies on the run, he drafted troops from other tribes to finish them off, and Scripture records this postscript in

**Judges 8:28**

“Midian never recovered.”

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**