

Outline

- I. During the time of Gideon, the Israelites were being oppressed by the Midianites, when an angel appeared to Gideon and declared, “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!”
 - A. Gideon responded, “If I am a mighty man of valor, where are all of God’s mighty works that our fathers told us about?”
 - B. Some people interpret this as Gideon criticizing the angel.
 - C. Gideon was sick and tired of living a substandard life.
 - D. One of the first steps to seeing the supernatural power of God operate in your life is getting to the place where you, from your heart, declare, “I refuse to live this way any longer!”

- II. Either you’ve advanced today and gotten closer to what the Lord has for you in life, or you’ve just spent another day wasting time.
 - A. If you don’t love what you’re doing, then why are you doing it?
 - B. It’s because you’ve accepted it.
 - C. You’re just marching in step and keeping time, not really doing anything significant.
 - D. God made you special, and your life should count.
 - E. You ought to be excited about your life and about knowing that you’re fulfilling God’s call and your destiny.
 - F. To a degree, this is preaching to the choir: You desire something more; you’re reading and considering all of this—what God is saying—through this study guide.

- III. According to 2 Chronicles 16:9, the Lord is looking for someone who is humble and submitted to Him.
 - A. Humility is submitting yourself to God; it’s yielding to Him and resisting the devil:

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. [7] Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:6-7

- B. Sadly, many Christians are actually cooperating with the devil, and their cooperation isn't even intentional.
 - C. Humility is being God-dependent instead of self-dependent.
 - D. When you're trying to live life by your own human strength and effort, you aren't humble, and you aren't submitted to God.
- IV. Instead of trusting and following God by going out to fight Israel, King Asa took the treasures from the temple and sent them to the king of Syria to hire him to fight against Judah's enemies.
- A. According to 2 Chronicles 16:7-8, the Lord basically said to Asa, "I had planned on giving the Israelites into your hand, and you would have conquered the Syrians too. But now you've gone and made a treaty with the Syrians. Not only have the Israelites escaped out of your hand, but the Syrians have too."
 - B. God's plan for King Asa and Judah was thwarted.
 - C. What you have to understand is that it's not a matter of just obtaining the right result—have you trusted God?
 - D. Ask yourself, have you done all of this through the flesh, in the natural way?
 - E. In God's eyes, the journey is more important than the destination.
- V. Without knowing it, you have probably compromised.
- A. You've chosen the world's way of trying to deal with your life and problems.
 - B. By doing so, you've limited what God can do in and through you.
 - C. Notice King Asa's response after the prophet Hanani spoke God's message to him:

Living in God's Best

Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. And Asa oppressed some of the people the same time.

2 Chronicles 16:10

- D. Asa became angry with the Lord's messenger and rejected both him and God's message.
 - E. You may not like some of what I'm about to share with you, but be open to let the Lord touch your heart.
 - F. God's eyes are searching for those whose hearts are totally His; He's looking for people who will humble themselves before Him.
 - G. He wants to bless you more than you want to be blessed.
 - H. You need the same attitude that Gideon had, where you are sick and tired of being sick and tired and won't settle for anything less than God's best.
 - I. There are reasons why the blessing of God isn't manifesting in your life more than it is, and it's never God's fault.
 - J. The reality is, you're to blame.
 - K. Don't make the same mistake King Asa did and get mad at the messenger.
 - L. Humble yourself before God's mighty hand and receive His message for you today.
- VI. If some of the things I'm about to address are in your life, God still loves you.
- A. Your ability to receive His best for your life is impacted by these things being present in your life.
 - B. There truly is a difference between God's way and the world's way of doing things.
 - C. King Asa obtained his goal, but he didn't do it God's way.
 - D. Because of that, 2 Chronicles 16:9 says that from then on, he was plagued by wars.

- E. Under the New Covenant, even though God may not be the one punishing us, what He can do in our lives will be hindered if we don't do things His way.
- F. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.
- G. Grace flows to those who submit themselves to and depend on Him.

Discipleship Questions

1. Why did Gideon respond the way he did to the angel?

2. What is one of the first steps to seeing the supernatural power of God operate in your life?

3. Either you've _____ today and gotten _____ to what the Lord has for you in life, or you've just spent another day _____ time.
4. *Discussion question:* How much can you love what you're doing if you're not living in God's best?

5. True or false: According to 2 Chronicles 16:9, the Lord is looking for someone who is proud and resistant to Him.
6. Humility is being what (James 4:6-7)?
 - A. Weak instead of strong
 - B. Sick instead of healed
 - C. Poor instead of rich
 - D. God-dependent instead of self-dependent
 - E. Self-dependent instead of God-dependent
7. When you're trying to live life by your own human strength and effort, you aren't _____, and you aren't _____ to God.

8. Why was God’s plan for King Asa and Judah thwarted?

9. True or false: What really matters is obtaining the right result.

10. In God’s eyes, the _____ is more important than the _____.

11. True or false: If you’ve compromised, you’ve limited what God can do in your life.

12. God’s eyes are searching for those whose _____ are totally His.

- A. Stomachs
- B. Hearts
- C. Riches
- D. Sundays
- E. Minds

13. *Discussion question:* What kinds of things in your life are impacting your ability to receive God’s best?

14. There truly is a difference between _____ way and the world’s way of doing things.

15. To whom does God’s grace flow?

Scriptures

JUDGES 6:11-14

And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. [12] And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. [13] And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. [14] And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

JAMES 4:6-7

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. [7] Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2 CHRONICLES 16:1-10

In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. [2] Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Benhadad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying, [3] There is a league between me and thee, as there was between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me. [4] And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelmaim, and all the store cities of Naphtali. [5] And it came to pass, when Baasha heard it, that he left off building of Ramah, and let his work cease. [6] Then Asa the king took all Judah; and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha was building; and he built therewith Geba and Mizpah. [7] And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. [8] Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand. [9] For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong

in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars. [10] Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. And Asa oppressed some of the people the same time.

2 CHRONICLES 14:2-15

And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God: [3] For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves: [4] And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment. [5] Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him. [6] And he built fenced cities in Judah: for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years; because the LORD had given him rest. [7] Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the LORD our God, we have sought him, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered. [8] And Asa had an army of men that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand: all these were mighty men of valour. [9] And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah. [10] Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah. [11] And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee. [12] So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled. [13] And Asa and the people that were with him pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil. [14] And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them. [15] They smote also the tents of cattle, and carried away sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.