

“The Making of a Champion for God”  
For the Pastor’s Corner of the *Shoreview Press*

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Deborah M. Gill, Pastor  
Church of the Living Hope, Shoreview  
October 19, 1999

It’s an amazing method that God uses in the making of a champion! The life of Gideon is the story of an unexpected hero, a surprise celebrity, and an ordinary chap that became an extraordinary champion for God. Have you ever wanted to be successful for God? God’s desire is to make you a champion for Him!

Gideon’s initial calling and confirmation to become a champion involved the pilgrimage from Gideon’s inability to see himself as someone God could use to the demonstration of God’s ability to make a champion out of anyone He would choose. In fact, when the Angel of the Lord recruited Gideon to become God’s champion, it was like the visit of a divine Talent Scout who was making a big mistake. Yet through the account of Gideon’s calling (Judges 6:1-22) we witness God’s demonstration of the fact that even more important than the discovery made by the Talent Scout is the discipleship He accomplished in the champion. Gideon didn’t have to be perfect before God could use him; he just had to let God use him so that the perfecting could begin. God can make champions of any of us, no matter where we are right now, because God can “coach” us into becoming all we can be—to fulfill the ultimate destiny for which God created us.

It was in the most unlikely of places that God found this “champion.” Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress. Instead of working out in the open so the chaff could be blown away by the wind, Gideon was pounding in a pit—hiding from the invaders who had

plundered his people of all their harvests. When the Angel of the LORD announced, “The LORD is with you” and called him a “mighty warrior,” Gideon, rebutted—

BUT MISTER! and recounted  
HIS STRUGGLE WITH CIRCUMSTANCES.

The Angel of the LORD didn’t stop there, however, he called Gideon—in spite of his circumstances—to go and save Israel. He indicated Gideon did have enough strength, because, prodded the Angel, “AM I not sending you?” The Messenger’s words were powerful, and started to effect Gideon; yet, though he addressed the Talent Scout with greater respect, he rebutted once more—

BUT MASTER! And recounted  
HIS STRUGGLES WITH SELF-ESTEEM.

“How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in my tribe! I am the least in my family!”

The LORD replied— “Because I AM with you!”

In spite of his struggles with circumstances and self-esteem, Gideon was getting an idea of who this mysterious Guest might be. So he asked the Angel of the LORD for a sign that “It is really YOU that is speaking to me.”

Gideon went and quickly prepared a generous sacrifice to present as an offering. When the Angel of the LORD took Gideon’s sacrifice and performed a spectacular sign upon it, our champion finally answered the calling. Gideon realized if God could perform such a spectacular sign on

his sacrifice, he could perform a commensurate accomplishment with his life. This time Gideon exclaimed—notice there are no more “buts” about it—

AH, SOVEREIGN LORD!

His personal struggles were now surpassed by  
HIS SURPRISE OF SOVEREIGNTY.

In essence Gideon was saying, “Since You are Almighty God—I am now convinced[!], You can accomplish in and through my life whatever You say!”

God gave Gideon an opportunity to prove His sovereignty over Gideon’s shortcomings by working with the sacrifice Gideon was willing to offer to God. God gives us an opportunity to prove His sovereignty over our shortcomings by working with the sacrifice we are willing to offer to God.

Are you wanting a life of significance and spiritual success—to be a champion for God? No matter what is your struggle with present circumstances or your own lack of self-esteem, come to recognize and believe that God is sovereign—that God is able to do whatever He wants to do. Then offer God something of yours to work with—give God a sacrifice on which He can perform a sign. God will begin to show you the champion He can make of your life!