

When the Odds are Against You

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Judges 7:1-7.
- B. There are truths we can practice when the odds are against us.

II. God will use our difficulties to build our faith.

- A. Fleece throwing is not a means by which we should determine the will of God.
- B. God's preparation for Gideon's ministry began by building his faith.
- C. God demonstrates His awesome power, and we learn to trust Him.

III. God will often require us to do those things that seem unreasonable.

- A. This is where we often fall to defeat.
- B. Gideon appeared outnumbered.
- C. God was the one who would do the Israelite's warfare. God's first test was a test of fear. (Deuteronomy 20:3, 8)
- D. Some men were not committed to winning the battle because they took their eyes off the enemy.

IV. God will lead us to do what will bring Him the most glory.

- A. God gets more glory when we are weaker.
- B. The more successful you are, the greater danger your failure and the more sensitive you are to egoism based on the past.

V. God usually strips us of all dependence upon ourselves.

- A. God stripped the armies of Gideon of basic weaponry.
- B. God only wants us to trust in Him.
- C. The only way one can be victorious is God.
- D. God releases His power to the degree that one is dependent upon Him.

VI. God will send us encouragement when we grow faint-hearted.

- A. God is sensitive toward the weak hearted.

B. God encouraged Gideon by affirming that Mideon had been given to him.

C. God understands our failures and is there to walk us through it.

VII. God always works in the other camp on our behalf.

VIII. God will give us specific instruction resulting in victory if we obey Him.

A. God's way is always victorious.

B. The key to victory is obedience. Disobedience short-circuits the sovereign power of God.

C. A person does not have anything until he has God.

Application questions:

1. Why does God use the weak to do great things in His name?

2. What other events of the Bible demonstrate the principle that God loves to use those who are "weak?"

3. What is something you can do this week that can increase your dependence upon God? Explain.
