

Sermon Discussion Questions | August 14, 2016

Gideon: Faith to Secure Victory, Pastor Bob Hopper Hebrews 11:32, Judges 6-7 (selected verses)

1. Describe a time or circumstance in your life when you doubted God. How did that doubt manifest itself? What did that doubt produce? How was that doubt resolved? What did the Lord teach you through that experience?
2. How did Gideon evidence his doubt (*Judges 6:13-40*)? In what ways can you relate to Gideon's doubt? Discuss the statement: "A little faith in the right object is infinitely more valuable than a lot of faith in the wrong object." Name "wrong objects" that you have placed your faith in. What was the result?
3. God's STRATEGY: What is God's "ultimate agenda" (meta-narrative)? Is God a narcissist? (see *Habakkuk 2:14; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:15-20*)
4. What is the major enemy of God's strategy? What has God said about sharing His glory with anything or anyone else? (see *Isaiah 42:8*). In what sense can it be said that we are all "glory thieves"?
5. Human DEPENDENCY: Two terms were introduced in the discussion: "voluntary dependency" and "involuntary dependency". Can you give an example of each one from either your personal life experience or your experience as a member of Central Presbyterian Church? How did God create increased dependency of His people in His battle plan to defeat the Midianites (*Judges 7*) and what rationale did He provide for this strategy? (*7:2*).
6. Dependency produces HUMILITY: In what way was this true for Gideon and his troops? In what way has this been true for you? If dependency produces humility, does independency produce pride? How have you seen this to be true in your own life? In the life of your church? What is the relationship between humility and grace (see *James 4:6* and *1 Peter 5:5*).
7. Humility produces DOXOLOGY (worship): Review again *Judges 7:2*. What does God want His people to *boast* about? What does *Jeremiah 9:23-24* teach?
8. Discuss this premise and illustration from the Olympic Games: "the greater the adversity, the greater the victory; the greater the victory, the greater the glory to the victor." How was this true in *Judges 7*?
9. In the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ, discuss:
 - What is God's STRATEGY?
 - What is our DEPENDENCY?
 - How does this dependency produce HUMILITY?
 - How does this produce DOXOLOGY?
10. What are the marks of a "gospel-filled" and "gospel-driven" Christian . . . congregation?