



The God Who Can Be Trusted
Keith Taylor
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Peace only comes when we learn to trust in the “bigness” of God. The way we live life is in direct relationship to our perception of the size of God. Gideon discovered the adequacy and trustworthiness of God. Gideon’s journey to discovery:

1. His view of God was too small...

The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.” “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?” Judges 6:11-13 (NIV)

2. Gideon’s insecurity...

The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?” “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.” Judges 6:14-15 (NIV)

3. God is a “bigger” presence... the invitation to trust

The Lord answered, “I will be with you...” Judges 6:16 (NIV)

- **What I think of as insurmountable on my own becomes unstoppable when it’s God with me.**

4. Gideon’s tests of faith...

First Test: *Tear down your father’s altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it. Then build a proper kind of altar to the Lord your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering.” So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord told him. But because he was afraid of his family and the townspeople, he did it at night rather than in the daytime. Judges 6:25-27 (NIV)*

Second Test: *But the Lord said to Gideon, “There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go; but if I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.” So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, “Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink.” Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. The Lord said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.” Judges 7:4-7 (NIV)*

5. God is greater than our Fear

- **Our fears decrease or increase in direct proportion to our trust in God**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)