

Judges 7:16-22a (NIV)

16 Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.

17 “Watch me,” he told them. “Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do.

18 When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, ‘For the LORD and for Gideon.’”

19 Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands.

20 The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!”

21 While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.

22a When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the LORD caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords.

07-07-02-The Secret of Gideon’s Victory
spiritual warfare, unity, proclamation, light, God’s presence
Judges 7:16-22a

When God is with us, our obedience brings Satan’s defeat.

INTRODUCTION:

–God kept working on Gideon, until he could confidently tell his little band of 300, “Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands.”

–When sent to earth, Jesus fully trusted that His Father was with Him.

By following Jesus in *complete trust* we are “*little Christs*” [Χριστιανός: a name pagans gave us]. We **represent** Him. Paul talks of this in 2 Cor 5:20. We are therefore **Christ’s ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal **through us**. We implore you **on Christ’s behalf**: Be reconciled to God.

–Gideon took on that role by trusting that God sent him and was with him. He *typified* Christ by leading his 300 soldiers the way Jesus leads His Church into *spiritual warfare*. **HOM.idea.** The **secret of Gideon’s victory** is similar to our secret for spiritual victory.

- I. **We Must Unite to Follow the Lord’s Leadership**– v.16-17, *Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside. “Watch me,” he told them. “Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do.”*
 - A. Disagreements divide the holy catholic church of the Apostles’ Creed “*into three* [major] *companies*”: *Orthodox, Roman & Protestant*.
 1. Tears will fall as *Heaven’s light purges every false human idea*.
 2. But during this time of earthly spiritual warfare, we’re called by God “to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (We do this by setting our trust in the Creed above our ‘pet’ *doctrinal opinions*.)
 - B. The Creed outlines “the faith once delivered to the saints,” but beyond confessing it, we must follow “*Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord*,” Who is the supreme Leader of His Body, the Church.
 1. Gideon said, “*Watch me.... Follow my lead.*” (We’re to “fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.”) [**Peter sank** in the waters of the stormy sea he walked on, because he took his eyes off Jesus. So it is with us.]
 2. Gideon said, “*do exactly as I do.*” (Jesus said in John 14:12, “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. That’s to be both *our creed* and *our deed*, because the battle He won on the cross began the *spiritual warfare* we’re still engaged in now.”)

TRANS: “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints...” Faith in Christ creates the **one** communion of saints. God is with us by the Holy Spirit to set the **one** “holy catholic church” in a militant stance, against which “the gates of hell” can never prevail. **When God is with us, our obedience brings Satan’s defeat.** So, with our eyes fixed on Jesus...

II. We Must Imitate the Lord’s Strategy— v.18-20, *When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, ‘For the LORD and for Gideon.’” Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!”*

- A. When Gideon’s 300 “blew their trumpets,” it indicated a sure victory— **Num 10:9**, When you go into battle in your own land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered by the LORD your God and rescued from your enemies.
- B. When Gideon’s 300,” held up “the torches,” it confronted an army with physical light. (Jesus calls us to spiritual warfare, and the light we’re to hold up is Jesus Himself— **John 12:46**, I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.
- C. When Gideon’s 300 “shouted, ‘A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!’” it gave a divine lesson: in earthly work, God joins with us. (He wants to send us the way He sent Jesus— **John 20:21-22**, Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

TRANS: When the archangel’s “trumpet” blows, all spiritual warfare will be over! But for now, we must lift up Jesus, as Gideon’s 300 did their “torches.” Jesus is with us and He’s “the light of the world.” **When God is with us, our obedience brings Satan’s defeat.** *That means...*

III. We Must Stand Where the Lord Places Us— v.21-22a, *While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled. When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the LORD caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords.*

- A. Remember, Jesus is sending us as the Father sent Him...
 1. We do spiritual battle by holding the “position” he puts us in.

2. When we obey His orders, prayerfully “stand [our] ground” and let Him work through us, it may not look like warfare, but it’s His way to bring us victory— **2 Chron 20:17b**, “You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you... Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.”
- B. When Gideon’s 300 unitedly stood their ground, “the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.” (When Jesus did spiritual warfare, demons cried out too!— **Mark 1:23-25**, Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” “Be quiet!” said Jesus sternly. “Come out of him!”

CONCLUSION:

—Our spiritual enemies know Who Jesus is, and if we obey the Lord, by following His lead, lifting Him up as “the light of the world,” standing our ground in prayer, they’ll also know us. [A demon, in **Acts 19:15**, said to some exorcists who didn’t follow and obey Christ, “Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?”]

—Gideon’s story teaches us about spiritual warfare. We’re like he was... feeble and insecure in his own eyes, but in God’s perspective a “mighty warrior.” God is helping us to grow spiritually so we can join Jesus in what He’s doing: destroying “the works of the devil.” Jesus said He would be with us as we follow Him, and **when God is with us, our obedience brings Satan’s defeat.**