

## *Might Man of Valor*

The Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD *is* with you, you mighty man of valor! Judges 6, 12

This is a very beautiful bestowment from an awesome God to a fearful man. Gideon was a man of fears and doubts. Yet he had a passion for his people. Now a quick brush on history.

The time was after Joshua and everyone did what seemed best to them. Idolatry and adultery came into Israel and God allowed Midianites to discipline them. Whenever there was harvest they would come in hordes and loot everything. When they came the Israelites hid in caves and strongholds. There was no spiritual newness. God seemed so far away and religion was becoming very mechanical and stale.

It was now, that one young man called Gideon was threshing wheat in the winepress, in order to hide *it* from the Midianites. (6,11). He wanted to save some harvest for his people and he was working when others were hiding. It was at this moment, the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD *is* with you, you mighty man of valor!"(6,12). Though Gideon was shocked and surprised at the sight of an angel, he pours out his anguish,

Gideon said to Him, "O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where *are* all His miracles which our fathers told us about, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites."(6,13)

But what Gideon did not realize then is that God has chosen him as the deliverer.

<sup>14</sup>Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?"(6,14)

Now Gideon has serious questions, he starts wriggling out of God's work. He says, "Lord not me, am weak, my family is little, no one will listen," and then he earnestly asks God, "Is that really you God?" and then he asks for the fleece and snow signs. He does not stop there. He goes into the enemy camp just hours before the battle and is only convinced when he heard about the frightening dream that the Lord had sent to the enemy.

The beauty of this choosing of Gideon, is that even today God chooses the unchoosables of this world. May be it was true he was really weak and from the least of all families, yet the Lord chose him.

And the second important thing is God sees how we will be in the future and speaks it as a promise over our lives years before that.

Gideon is scared and threshing wheat in a winepress and here comes the angel of the Lord and addresses him as a mighty man of valour. Don't know how Gideon reacted whether he laughed or felt insulted or irritated.

That's it, we see ourselves with all our inadequacies, fears and doubts and that is why it is so hard for us to believe the things what God has purposed in our lives. Yet God in all His Sovereignty and foresight sees what we will be and calls us thus even when we are not anywhere near that goal.

I can identify myself so clearly with this. I had such low self esteem and never thought I would be any good. When God gave me a promise I always thought it was a coincidence or it may not be me and so on. But looking back I can clearly see God saw in me how He will fashion me and use me in His vineyard even when I was feeling little and insignificant.

After reading a chapter later we know how Gideon truly became a mighty man of valour. But when God addressed him a mighty warrior in the beginning he was not sure. He had many questions and doubts.

Friends, probably you could be hiding and asking God, "where are all the great encounters I had before, where are the miracles I received?" It has all been true, but now God has greater things in store for us.

There must be more than this  
O breath of God, come breathe within  
There must be more than this  
Spirit of God we wait for You  
Fill us anew we pray  
Fill us anew we pray

Listen to this song. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFPzUcQkmmg&feature=related>