

Walk in the Spirit—Pray in the Spirit

Sermon #6: Prayer As Letting Go

Study Text: Judges 7:1–15

Date: August 8, 2010

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Bible Study Introduction:

Prayer is the place we can acknowledge that we do not have the resources we need for what is ahead, but prayer is also the place we discover that God will take away our security so that we may rely on God's initiating work in our life. In prayer, we are bid to let go of our pretence to competence (or adequacy) but not of our fears, which God also relieves (verse 10).

Opening Questions:

- How did your prayer “experiment” go from your last study time together?
- We often see evidence of God's work in a difficult situation only when we look backwards at it, after it's passed. Share a time when, looking backward, you now see that God was involved in your life?
- How do you know when God is calling you to something difficult?

Read Judges 7:1–15

- In prayer, we often find out the mind of God. As you read verses 1–8, what are some of God's chief concerns? How do you feel about worshiping and following a God like that?
- In verses 9–15, God seemingly moves to a different set of concerns. What are they? How do the concerns of verses 1–8 fit together with this new set?
- What are some of the things that God has provided to Gideon even as he seems to be stripping away his resources? When have you seen God do that sort of thing for you, or a friend, or your church?
- Doubt is an understandable reality for Gideon. What do we learn about God and doubt by reading this passage? Does it help to also read Judges 6:36–40?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:7–10. How does this passage help us understand our study today? How does this passage shed more light on prayer? On God's design to work through us? On the potential cost to us?

Group or Personal Reflection

- What situation are you facing where you are trying too hard to bring all your resources to it? Or, where do you need to create more room for God to work?
- What does this passage add to your understanding of prayer that might actually help you this week?
- Notice that Gideon actually worships among his enemies in verse 15. Are you able to do that in your “enemy encampment”? How have you found a way to do that? Or if not, what is a particular barrier we can help you overcome?