

# Study Guide: 8-31-25 - Fear Factor

## Overview

This sermon explores how fear acts as a barrier to God's purpose, using Gideon's story as a "reluctant hero" who overcomes fears through obedience and trust in God. Fear cripples faith, peace, joy, and purpose, often rooted in sin, self-reliance, and lies from the enemy. The message emphasizes truths to counter fear and step into God's "beyond."

## Key Themes

- **Fear's Impact:** Cripples faith, subverts peace, robs joy, stirs anxiety, paralyzes purpose.
- **Gideon's Journey:** From hiding in fear (threshing wheat in a winepress) to leading victory with 300 men.
- **Enemy's Tactics:** Uses fear of abandonment, inadequacy, family rejection, and uncertainty to hinder obedience.
- **God's Response:** Calls us as He sees us (e.g., "mighty hero"), provides signs patiently, reduces self-reliance, and delivers miracles.

## Main Truths and Countering Fears

1. **Sin is a Root Cause of Fear** (Judges 6:1-10; Romans 13:1-7)
  - Sin leads to conviction (a healthy fear for believers) but can at times feel like abandonment.
  - Question: Am I living in sin? Obedience restores peace.
2. **God Will Never Abandon Us** (Judges 6:11-13)
  - Lie: God has left us. Truth: We abandon God through disobedience/idolatry.
  - Check areas like faith, marriage, family, work, finances, friendships, and entertainment for "little g gods."
  - Promise: God doesn't move; we do. Obey His Word to silence fear.
3. **Fear Thrives in Self-Reliance** (Judges 6:14-16)
  - Lie: "I'm not enough." Truth: He's enough and you're not alone—God provides His presence, strength, and godly people to help.
  - Shift from "I trust in me" to faith in God, who equips you, the "developing product."
  - Encountering God reveals our sin, creating brokenness, but leads to joy in Christ.
  - Obedience + God's presence = peace.
4. **You Belong To A New Family** (Judges 6:25-32)
  - Obeying God may mean breaking family norms or idols (e.g., Baal's altar at night).
  - Truth: You belong to God's family—rebuke curses, embrace blessings. God protects (Gideon lived to old age).
5. **God is Speaking to You** (Judges 6:33-40)
  - Fleeces/deals stem from doubt. Metrics for hearing God: Inner voice, peace, godly urges, dreams, Word.
  - Action: Get closer (prayer/Bible), silence distractions, take faith steps.
6. **Live Where Your Only Option is to Trust Him** (Judges 7:1-22; 8:28)
  - God reduces army (32,000 to 300) to eliminate self-boasting and force dependence on Him.
  - Result: Miracle victory—enemies turn on themselves.
  - Blessing: Problems persist, but trust casts out fear, doubt; brings hope, strength, peace.

## Key Bible Verses

- Judges 6:12: "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!"
- Judges 6:16: "I will be with you."
- Judges 6:23: "Do not be afraid."
- Judges 6:24: "Yahweh-Shalom" (The Lord is Peace).
- Judges 7:2: Reduce reliance on numbers to glorify God.
- Romans 13:3-4: Do right to live without fear.
- Exodus 33:20 / John 1:18: No one sees God the Father face-to-face.

## Discussion Questions

1. What fears (e.g., abandonment, inadequacy, family rejection) are holding you back from God's purpose?
2. In what areas might sin or idolatry be fueling your fear? How can you obey God's Word there?
3. How have you experienced self-reliance leading to fear? What "army reduction" might God be doing in your life?
4. Describe a time you heard God's voice. What steps can you take to listen better?
5. How does trusting God as your only option change your approach to current challenges?

## Personal Application

- **Examine:** List fears and root causes (sin, self-reliance, etc.).
- **Declare:** Renounce fear; break generational curses; confess trust and obedience (as in the sermon's closing declarations).
- **Act:** Identify one step of obedience today—sacrifice an "idol," take a faith risk, or seek God's peace in prayer.
- **Pray:** "God, I am afraid/worried, but I trust You." Embrace boldness like Gideon's victory.