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The Altar: A Message Of Peace For Fighting A War

Sometimes God Gives His People Exactly What They Ask For

Our Motive For Christian Living Isn't To Gain Something, But To Live Up To What We Already Have In Christ

Ephesians 4:1 - *Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.*

Judges 6:11-24 - *Then the angel of the LORD came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites.* 12 *The angel of the LORD appeared to him and said, "Mighty hero, the LORD is with you!"* 13 *"Sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors told us about? Didn't they say, 'The LORD brought us up out of Egypt'? But now the LORD has abandoned us and handed us over to the Midianites."* 14 *Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!"* 15 *"But Lord," Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"* 16 *The LORD said to him, "I will be with you. And you will destroy the Midianites as if you were fighting against one man."* 17 *Gideon replied, "If you are truly going to help me, show me a sign to prove that it is really the LORD speaking to me.* 18 *Don't go away until I come back and bring my offering to you." He answered, "I will stay here until you return."* 19 *Gideon hurried home. He cooked a young goat, and with a basket of flour he baked some bread without yeast. Then, carrying the meat in a basket and the broth in a pot, he brought them out and presented them to the angel, who was under the great tree.* 20 *The angel of God said to him, "Place the meat and the unleavened bread on this rock, and pour the broth over it." And Gideon did as he was told.* 21 *Then the angel of the LORD touched the meat and bread with the tip of the staff in his hand, and fire flamed up from the rock and consumed all he had brought. And the angel of the LORD disappeared.* 22 *When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the LORD, he cried out, "Oh, Sovereign LORD, I'm doomed! I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!"* 23 *"It is all right," the LORD replied. "Do not be afraid. You will not die."* 24 *And Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and named it Yahweh-Shalom (which means "the LORD is peace"). The altar remains in Ophrah in the land of the clan of Abiezer to this day.*

Philippians 2:12-13 - *…Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.* 13 *For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.*

God's Prepared To Make Us What We Ought To Be If We'll Submit To His Will

When God Reveals His Will To You, Don't Question His Wisdom Or Argue With His Plans, Just Do It!

Romans 11:34 - *For who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice?*

Romans 15:13 - *I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Gideon Had To Receive A Message Of Peace To Prepare Him For Fighting A War

Gideon Built An Altar And Called It "*The Lord Is Peace*"

Gideon Came To Believe The Lord Was Able To Use Him, Not Because Of Who He Was But Because Of Who God Was