

Week 45
311/54

Transforming Daily
“ . . . a bowl full of water . . . ”
Judges 6:38

A bowl full of water is more than Gideon asked for. He just wanted the fleece to be wet and the ground to be dry, but as always, God out does all of our expectations. Gideon was looking for confirmation for the call of God on his life. Like many, Gideon was looking for a sign of assurance.

There comes a time in the life of a believer that he or she develops a mature dependence on God. There is nothing inherently wrong with signs in and of themselves. The problem or problems arise when signs and wonders supersede Scripture and God's will. Therein lies the need for a mature and growing faith and trust in God.

The authority of God for the believer's life is revealed in the Scriptures. If the Bible is not the final Word on all matters for the believer, then what is? If the believer relies on his or her own experiences outside of or contrary to Scripture, then by whose authority are these experiences credible and reliable? If one part of Scripture is in question, then all of Scripture becomes suspect. On the other hand, if all of Scripture is trusted as the Word of God, then it is received as authoritative and authentic.

The difficulty comes for the believer when he or she is trying to discern a personal decision in life that is not specifically spoken of in Scripture, e.g., marriage partner, choice of college, what house to buy and when, what vocation to choose, etc. The believer desires to please God. They don't want to miss His will in any matter, so they leave it to casting lots, or laying out fleece with the intention that God will override any circumstance to give them the sign or wonder that will confirm *their* decision. As spiritual as it may sound or seem it's really an irresponsible and immature practice. Because if things don't work out as intended, the believer can always say that God told them to do thus and such instead of shouldering the responsibility for their own actions.

One of the most abused dynamics of the spiritual life is making claims, in God's name that aren't specifically in Scripture, that no one can refute. In doing so, in one fell swoop, the one or ones making the claim or claims empowers themselves in the matter and potentially undermines the confidence of others. More importantly, when someone makes the claim that "God told me" and what they say He told them isn't or can't be supported by Scripture, e.g., "God told me that I won't die until I see my children grown" they unwittingly or purposefully undermine the authority and purpose of Scripture. One might say, "It seemed like God said," or "I believe God spoke to my heart," or "I felt impressed by God that," but to definitively say that God said something that can't be corroborated by Scripture is dangerous.

In Gideon's case, we know that the fleece was answered by God because the Bible says that He answered, but that doesn't automatically mean that "setting out a fleece" is always or ever going to work again. The thing about trusting signs and wonders rather than God's Word and the principles therein is that one is never satisfied with just a bowl of water.