

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

JULY 6, 2025
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SERMON OUTLINE

GOD'S POWER AND MAN'S PRIDE

JUDGES 7:1-25 | REV. LITO VILLORIA

Judges 7 is a striking demonstration of how God intentionally weakened human strength to display His own power. Gideon's army started at 32,000 but was reduced to 300. This divine reduction ensured that Israel could not boast in their own might. The battle strategy was unconventional: no swords, only trumpets, jars and torches. God alone caused the Midianites to panic and destroy each other.

At the spring of Harod—literally the “spring of trembling”—God told Gideon that his 32,000 soldiers were too many. If Israel fought with such numbers, they would boast that their own strength saved them. To crush human pride, God first addressed the overconfidence in numbers. (Judges 7:1-2)

Gideon obeyed God's surprising command: all who trembled could leave. Twenty-two thousand departed! But even with 10,000, pride still lurked. In the water, God refined them further—only 300

who lapped water with their hands remained. God saved Israel through this small, purified band, ensuring no one could boast. (Judges 7:3-8)

Knowing Gideon's lingering fear, God offered reassurance. By night, Gideon and his servant Purah overheard an enemy's dream: a humble barley loaf knocked over a mighty tent—interpreted as Gideon's victory by God's hand. Encouraged, Gideon worshiped, returned, and declared confidently, “The LORD has given Midian into our hands!” (Judges 7:9-15)

Gideon split his 300 into three groups, giving them trumpets, jars and hidden torches—no swords. At midnight, they blew trumpets, smashed jars, raised torches and shouted, “A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!” Confused and terrified, the Midianites turned their swords on each other and fled. (Judges 7:16-22)

Gideon called reinforcements from Israel's tribes to cut off the fleeing

enemy. Ephraim seized the Jordan crossings and captured the Midianite princes, Oreb and Zeeb. Though victory was clearly by God's power, man's pride still lingered—hinting at trouble in Gideon's later years. (Judges 7:23-25)

The chapter reveals two contrasting truths: God's power is sufficient even through weak vessels, and man's pride is a danger even in victory. The way to true victory is not by human strength, but by humble trust in God's presence and plan.

Sermon Focus: God's power is made perfect in weakness. He often reduces our resources so we cannot boast about ourselves. Are you willing to be reduced? Are you willing to let God's strength shine through your insufficiency? Let pride fall, and let God's power rise. The battle is the Lord's—and He gets all the glory! ✨

SUPER BTS - BLESSED, THANKFUL AND SURRENDERED

REV. MIKE TRINIDAD

If I were to borrow a Gen Z slang term, “super”, that I have been encountering many times over in the recent past, the above title (Super BTS) aptly describes where I'm currently at in my cancer journey - super blessed, thankful and surrendered!

I praise God for the steadfast faith that the Lord has given me, that in spite of the many challenges I encountered in my journey that started earlier in February, which eventually led to a 10-day hospital confinement in March. These challenges left me bewildered about what lay ahead. My team of doctors had to dig deep to find out the root of my painful and frequent urination which went on for a few weeks. This eventually led to the discovery of a highly inflamed urinary bladder (perhaps a side effect of radiation), for which a procedure was performed. Bilateral tubes were inserted in my kidneys to enable me to expel my urine directly into two bags in order to relieve my inflamed bladder of unnecessary further stress.

This was coupled with further complications like swelling of both feet, fluid build up in my abdomen and later on in my lungs that left me perplexed at the sudden turn of events. I asked the Lord if perhaps these were signs that He wanted to call me home sooner than I expected? But, alas, the events only confirmed

what I already knew in my heart - God's love for me is so immense, His healing grace and mercies abound even as I waded through turbulent waters and experienced these storms in my life. In the end, I thank the Lord profusely because He gave me the victory from the various complications that became increasingly difficult to handle.

In this situation, Jesus reminded me of the gospel account of Him calming the severe storm in **Mark 4:39-40, “And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”** However, from my recent health scare, it was not so much a lack of faith on my part, but rather merely inquiring of the Lord about why I had experienced the complications I described earlier. Through this violent storm, I remained blessed, thankful and surrendered to the Lord's will.

I have been incredibly blessed by the love of my wife, my primary and very attentive caregiver, as well as my daughters, Mika and Tin, who painstakingly take turns from their hectic work schedules to attend to my needs in the hospital and at home. The countless prayers of family, relatives and loved ones from GCFSM and other well-meaning friends have helped tremendously boost my morale to

continue trusting in Jesus, our faithful, miracle-working God! My primary doctor later on affirmed what we already knew in our hearts - my recovery from these complications was nothing but a miracle from God!

While I lost a considerable amount of weight since February, I have been slowly but steadily increasing in weight. From a measly 126 pounds, I am now up to 140 pounds! Praise God! Only by His tremendous grace upon me!

I am also extremely thankful for the opportunity the Lord has opened for me to encourage others who tread on similar paths that may leave them wary and uncertain about what lies ahead. Praise God for those whom I have been able to reach out to in order to point them to Jesus who alone is the rock on which they can stand in their own challenges in life.

But, one thing is for certain, when your faith is anchored on our Almighty and Sovereign God, there is nothing you will ever need to fear! He promises to never leave you nor forsake you; He will be your strength when you are weak; the solid foundation on which you stand.

With Jesus on your side, no matter what your circumstances are, you can be SUPER BLESSED, THANKFUL AND SURRENDERED to His good and perfect will! ✨

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