

**Title:** Whole Peace

**Text:** *“But the Lord said to him, ‘Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.’ Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord and called it, The Lord Is Peace...”* (Judges 6:23-24)

**Target:** Peace is more than the absence of adversity; it is the presence of God in adversity.

- I. **The Peace of God Clarifies Identity:** *“And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, ‘The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor.’”* (Judges 6:12)
  - A. **Despite His Location:** *“...beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites.”* (Vs. 11)
  - B. **Despite your Questions:** *“...if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us?” And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us,”* (Vs. 13)
  - C. **Despite your Disbeliefs:** *“And he said to him, ‘Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’”* (Vs. 15)
  - D. **Despite Your Requests:** *“And he said to him, ‘If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me.’”* (Vs. 17)
- II. **The Peace of God Commands Obedience:**
  - A. **Pull Down:** *“That night the Lord said to him, ‘Take your father’s bull, and the second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it.’”* (Vs. 25)
  - B. **Build Up:** *“and build an altar to the Lord your God on the top of the stronghold here, with stones laid in due order. Then take the second bull and offer it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah that you shall cut down.”* (Vs. 26)
  - C. **Rise Up:** *“So Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the Lord had told him. But because he was too afraid of his family and the men of the town to do it by day, he did it by night.”* (Vs. 27)
- III. **The Peace of God Consecrates Power:** *“But the Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.”* (Vs. 34)
  - A. **Peace Created Boldness:** *“Now all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East came together, and they crossed the Jordan and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel.”* (Vs. 33)
  - B. **Peace Created Purpose:** *“And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, and they too were called out to follow him. And he sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they went up to meet them.”* (Vs. 35)
- IV. **The Peace of God Confirms Victory:** *“The Lord said to Gideon, ‘The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’”* (Judges 7:2)
  - A. **Less is More:** *“Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.’ Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained.”* (Vs. 3)

- B. Hand or Lap:** *“And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water.”*  
(Vs. 6)
- C. Dream Cakes:** *“When Gideon came, behold, a man was telling a dream to his comrade. And he said, ‘Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came to the tent and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, so that the tent lay flat.’”* (Vs. 13)
- D. Turn down for What:** *“When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then blow the trumpets also on every side of all the camp and shout, ‘For the Lord and for Gideon.’”* (Vs. 18)

**Takeaway:** Peace isn't what God gives you after the battle. Peace is what He gives you before and in the Battle.