

God is Moving

Lessons in Listening

I. Watch, Listen, Think, & Act

A. Consequence of Ignoring God

Judges 6:7–10 (NIV®)

⁷ When the Israelites cried to the Lord because of Midian, ⁸ he sent them a prophet, who said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ⁹ I snatched you from the power of Egypt and from the hand of all your oppressors. I drove them from before you and gave you their land. ¹⁰ I said to you, ‘I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.’ **But you have not listened to me.**”

B. The Importance of Listening to God

John 10:27 (NIV®)

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Matthew 3:8 (NIV®)

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

Ephesians 5:8–11 (NIV®)

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for **the fruit of the light** consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with **the fruitless deeds of darkness**, but rather expose them.

C. Watch & Understand

Judges 6:11–12 (NIV®)

¹¹ The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.

¹² When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “The Lord is with you, mighty warrior.”

1) Two things are reported

2) Are you watching for God’s involvement?

Hebrews 13:2 (NIV®)

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

D. Confirmation

1) Do not need confirmation of fundamental truth which is presented

2) Big Change requires Big Guidance

Judges 6:17–18 (NIV®)

¹⁷ Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, **give me a sign that it is really you talking to me.** ¹⁸ Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you." And the Lord said, "I will wait until you return."

Judges 6:21–22 (NIV®)

²¹ With the tip of the staff that was in his hand, the angel of the Lord touched the meat and the unleavened bread. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the Lord disappeared. ²² **When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed,** "Ah, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!"

E. Momentum Matters

Judges 6:25 (NIV®)

That same night the Lord said to him, "Take the second bull from your father's herd, the one seven years old. Tear down your father's altar to Baal and cut down the Asherah pole beside it.

- ❖ There is momentum which grows as you follow the Lord
- ❖ There is momentum which grows if you follow your carnal desires

F. Grace & Patience

Judges 6:36–38 (NIV®)

³⁶ Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised— ³⁷ look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said." ³⁸ And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew—a bowlful of water.

G. Obedience is Evidence of Listening

Judges 7:2–3 (NIV®)

² The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many men for me to deliver Midian into their hands. In order that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her, ³ announce now to the people, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.' " So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

H. Kindness of God

Judges 7:9–11 (NIV®)

⁹ During that night the Lord said to Gideon, "Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands. ¹⁰ **If you are afraid to attack,** go down to the camp with your servant Purah ¹¹ and listen to what they are saying. Afterward, **you will be encouraged to attack the camp.**" So he and Purah his servant went down to the outposts of the camp.