

Congregation: Go Church Centurion

Date: 17 May 2026

Message: Ordinary People, Extraordinary God

Hebrews 11:32-35 NKJV

³² And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: ³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

These men and women in this chapter may be long gone, yes, but their stories remain to strengthen and encourage us because we have lived, or are living, some of these very battles. Among us are Gideons and Baraks, ordinary people who became warriors when God called. There are Samsons' valiant men here too: not perfect, but deeply aware of what the power of God can accomplish in a surrendered life.

Jephthah is represented here as well, fighters, people of their word, those who stand firm and don't break their word. And yes, there are Davids among us, hearts burning with passion, chasing after God with everything in them. There are Samuels too, steady, integrous, resolute voices who refuse to compromise. These stories aren't distant history. They are mirrors. They are reminders. They are us.

What have been your feats of faith? We're ordinary people but with an extraordinary God. Those of you who have subdued or are still subduing the enemy, you know this well. You have contended, and continue to contend, for your family, your children, your health, your job, your business, your destiny, and even your relationship with God.

A friend of mine has been locked in what feels like an endless series of battles with competitors and regulators in their industry, facing judgments that seem consistently unfair toward their company.

Some friend of mine have spent years fighting off false accusations from a former business partner over ownership rights of the company they jointly owned.

Those of you who have obtained promises and those still holding on to them you know what it means to cling to the Word of God against all odds. You have stood, and continue to stand, on prophecies that may not look anywhere close to being fulfilled, yet you refuse to let go.

1 Samuel 3:19

¹⁹ So Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

Faith in action in the capstone to a holy and illustrious career.

Ephesians 6:13

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand. Hold tight. Tell yourself, I'm not letting go. Life's journey is unpredictable, some things you can influence others you cannot.

Those of you who have stopped the mouths of lions, you know what it means to witness God's deliverance in ways you never could have imagined. You've seen His intervention arrive at the very moment you least expected it. And still, you wait in faith, believing for the breakthrough that has not yet manifested.

David

Psalm 27: 1

The Lord *is* my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord *is* the strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 51:10-13

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

David: a man after God's heart. Flawed, yet chosen. Marked by brokenness, yet unshaken in devotion. A fighter. A worshiper. A king.

Psalm 89:13

You have a mighty arm. Strong is Your hand, and high is Your right hand.

Psalm 44:3

For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, Nor did their own arm save them. But it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, because You favored them.

Those of you who have quenched the violence of the fire, you know what it means to walk through flames. Some of you can boldly say, I've been in my own fires, moments when you weren't sure you would make it out. But you're here today. Still standing. Still preserved.

Isaiah 43:2-3

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, You are Mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. ³ For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Those of you who have escaped the edge of the sword, you carry stories of near misses, of moments when danger brushed past you. You've walked away from situations that should have ended in death, destruction, injury, harm, or disaster. These are not coincidences; they are testimonies of divine preservation.

Those of you who, time and time again, have cried out to the Lord, strengthen me in my weakness... out of weakness, make me strong, you know what it means to lean on Him when your own strength has run out.

Samson

Judges 16: 28-30

²⁸ Then Samson called to the Lord, saying, “O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one *blow* take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!” ²⁹ And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left. ³⁰ Then Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” And he pushed with *all his* might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life

Samson is listed in Hebrew not for his moral perfection but because his life demonstrates faith in God and His power working through flawed individuals. Despite his repeated failures such as seeking revenge and personal moral lapses, was used by God to accomplish His purposes, including delivering Israel from the Philistines and performing feats that required divine strength, like killing a lion and defeating enemies with minimal resources.

Isaiah 35:3-4

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees

Made strong, in pain, grief, misfortune, confusion, uncertainty.

Those of you who became valiant in the battles of life, you didn't even know you had it in you. Like Gideon, you were thrust into difficult situations at work, at school, at university, in business, or within your family. Yet somehow, by God's grace, you came out on the other side... and you came out alright.

Gideon

Judges 6:11-12

¹¹ Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!”

Judges 6:14-16

¹⁴ Then the Lord turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?” ¹⁵ So he said to Him, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” ¹⁶ And the Lord said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.”

God delights in working through ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary purposes. When we choose faith over fear, obedience over hesitation, and dependence on Him over our own limitations, we step into the possibility of divine victory. Gideon’s life reminds us that God is not limited by our weakness or intimidated by our circumstances. Even when life feels overwhelming, God meets us in unexpected places and reveals His strength through our surrender.

Those of you who have turned to flight the armies of the aliens, remember this: do not turn back in the day of battle. The cost of retreat is far too great, and the consequences too heavy to bear.

Barak

Judges 4:6-8

⁶ Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “Has not the LORD God of Israel commanded, ‘Go and deploy *troops* at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun; ⁷ and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will ^[b]deliver him into your hand?’”⁸ And Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!”

Barak’s example encourages believers to act in faith, trusting God’s promises, and demonstrates that courage and obedience, even when accompanied by human hesitation, are recognized and honored by God. His faith is demonstrated by obeying God’s command to fight Sisera despite the odds.

Psalm 78:9

The children of Ephraim, being armed and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle.

Jephthah

Judges 11:1-4

Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valor, but he was the son of a harlot; and Gilead begot Jephthah. ²Gilead's wife bore sons; and when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out, and said to him, "You shall have no inheritance in our father's house, for you *are* the son of another woman." ³Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and dwelt in the land of Tob; and worthless men banded together with Jephthah and went out *raiding* with him.

Jephthah: a man marked by a rash vow that led to tragic consequences and deep familial pain. His story reminds us that some decisions cost us more than we ever imagined. Yet his act of faith is what Scripture highlights: he trusted Yahweh for victory. Jephthah's confidence rested not in his ancestry or his past, but in God's covenant promises to Israel, and for that, he is commended.

HOW TO PARTNER WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY GOD

1. Silence the voice of enemy

Daniel 32:11

³² Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

John 1:46

⁴⁶ And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Philip said to him, "Come and see."

What have you been told?

“Family doesn’t count...” But the extraordinary God has made you part of His family, seated with Christ in heavenly places. A family of doers, overcomers, and heirs... and you are in it.

“You’re too poor...” But the extraordinary God reminds you that He owns the cattle on a thousand hills. Lack does not define you; His abundance does.

“You don’t have the looks...” But you are fearfully and wonderfully made, crafted with intention, beauty, and purpose.

“You’re not spiritual enough...” But the extraordinary God is the One who draws, strengthens, and transforms. He qualifies those He calls.

Philippians 2:13...

¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

“Not old enough...” But the extraordinary God says, do not despise your youth. He equips, He empowers, and He appoints, regardless of age.

“Your business idea isn’t great enough...” But the extraordinary God reminds you, do not despise the day of small beginnings. What starts small in your hands can grow mighty in His.

2. Know your seasons

3. Have battle strategy

1 Chronicles 12: David’s army

² armed with bows, using both the right hand and the left in hurling stones and shooting arrows with the bow. They were of Benjamin,

⁸ Some Gadites joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for battle, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains:

of the sons of Judah bearing shield and spear

sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times,

Zebulun there were fifty thousand who went out to battle, expert in war with all weapons of war, stout-hearted men who could keep ranks;

David's army was made up of people with different skills, warriors with unique strengths, insight, revelation, and practical know-how. In the same way, maybe you need to be praying *with* God about who He has placed around you.

Rally the prayer warriors. Gather the intercessors. Surround yourself with those who know how to fight in the spirit and stand with you in the battles of life.

4. Be in the will of God

Proverbs 3:5-6:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

5. Surrender burdens to God

1 Peter 5-7

Cast your burdens on him because he cares for you.

Don't fight battles that were never yours to fight. You are strongest in the place of surrender, in brokenness, in weakness, in purity, in holiness.

6. Be vigilant - never take anything for granted

1 Peter 5:8

⁸Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

7. Come to God in Obedience

John 14:15

¹⁵"If you love Me, keep My commandments.

9. Walk in stature and wisdom

Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

10. Have strong accountability hedges

11. Revive forgotten dreams

Don't let your passion disappear.