

Bible Baptist Church

Adult Bible Study

April 19, 2026

Lesson 4.2



Text: Judges 8:1-23 (1-4); II Timothy 4:7,8

Introduction: What is persistence? Is persistence important? It is important to finish your job assignment? In this lesson we are introduced to four foes which sought after Gideon to foil his attempts to finish God's assignments and these four foes will do the same to us if we are not careful.

Lesson: Think about this – Gideon knew the importance of finishing strong. The Lord orchestrated an overwhelming victory against the Midianites and Amalekites. He used 300 men with torches (lamps), pitchers and trumpets to defeat this massive army! But Gideon knew the most dangerous time for a leader follows on the heels of victory. So the difference between those who complete God's tasks and those who do not is a God-empowered resolution to resist their enemies at every point of attack.

Let's look how Gideon finished the Lord's task in spite of the different obstacles, and how we can apply these principles to our lives today.

- I. **He finished in spite of criticism** – Judges 8
 - a. **Ephraim was selfish** – vrs. 1 – You notice their problem was they were selfish – just caring about themselves and they thought they were better than others – (They had the same attitude with Joshua – Joshua 17:14). Why were they mad?
 - i. They were upset because they were not called out to battle – vrs. 1b – Why? Well the Lord had a specific battle plan that He gave to Gideon, that did not include Ephraim.
 1. Rationale – the Lord knew that they were a prideful and dominant tribe. Remember the Lord wanted to work a great victory for **HIS Glory** and not based on the people – 7:2

No matter how great of a victory – there will always be those around (even in the Lord's camp or today---“the church” looking for a reason to criticize). Look how Gideon responded to this criticism ---

- b. **Gidoen was selfless** – vrs. 2,3 – Gideon could have easily bragged about everything and how the Lord used him, but he put the spotlight on them. He told them that they were greater than himself as they took care of the grapes of Ephraim than the battle in Abiezer. Because of this, their anger was subsided. Oh how, we need to exercise this characteristic of the Spirit of God in our lives – Proverbs 15:1; 16:32; Galatians 5:22,23

We should not be selfish and just caring for ourselves!! Even Jesus taught this is the lesson of “The Good Samaritan” in ***Luke 10:25-37. I Corinthians 13:4,5; Philippians 2:3-4; James 3:16

- II. **He finished in spite of fatigue** – Judges 8:4 – even though they fought this battle all night and now into the morning, but they continued the pursuit. Remember – anyone who achieves anything of eternal worth (those heavenly treasures) must win the war against exhaustion. So how did Gideon do it? There were three observations that he experienced:
 - a. **The voice of the past** – vrs. 6:14 – Remember God told him, “Go in this thy might and thou shalt save Israel...”. He knew that the Lord called and put His hand upon him for this work, so he kept on going. We too, need to remember what the Lord has done for us and that should keep us going. I Thessalonians 5:24
 - b. **The victory of the present** – vrs. 7:21 – He witnessed the victory as he and his army of 300 watched the Midianites kill each other and run for safety. We too, need to realize that the Lord has given us victory through the Lord Jesus Christ – I Corinthians 15:57

Note – So when adversity brings a dark shadow over your life, just pause to recall God’s faithfulness in the past. This same God is the same God who is going to help you and I finish the Lord’s assignment that He has called us to do! (I Corinthians 1:9a; II Thessalonians 3:3a)

- c. **The vision of the future** – vrs. 5d – Here we see Gideon requesting bread for his men so he can continue to pursue the Midianites. He knew that the job had to be complete in order to have peace in Israel. But now this brings us to our next foe.

- III. **He finished in spite of indifference** – Judges 8:5,6
 - a. **The uncaring heart of indifference** – vrs. 5,6 – where there are indifferences – there is no concern or a non-caring heart. The men of Succoth just cared about themselves and the “what-ifs”.
 - b. **The unbelieving heart of indifference** – vrs. 7-9 – these men did not believe that Gideon would win the victory. Notice what Gideon told them:
 - i. When I return in peace – I will tear down your tower – vrs. 9 – He kept his promise vrs. 15-17

IV. **He finished in spite of temptation** – Judges 8:22,23 – can you imagine this – remember:

- a. Gideon was afraid and hiding behind a winepress.
- b. Gideon considered himself as insufficient and a no-body.
- c. Gideon needed assurance from the Lord for the battle.

But now the people wanted him to be their ruler or king. What a great temptation that must have been going from a nobody to the next “king”. But notice what Gideon told them – vrs. 23 – “...the Lord shall rule over you.”

He did not let the temptation of pride or prestige over take him, but remain humble before the Lord – Proverbs 16:18; 22:4; James 4:10; I Peter 5:6

Conclusion: What does the Lord want you to finish? The sad thing about those who don't finish, is that they often quit just before victory's arrival --- don't quit – keep on to the finish line.
II Timothy 4:7