

Anticipation and Excitement

1. One of our biggest problems as teachers and workers is the desire to see our students excited and anticipating the opportunity to hear the Word of God
 - a. We all wonder why people aren't more excited our our class and ministry
 - b. We want them to get more engaged, invited others, help us!
 - c. We would never admit it but we feel hurt that they don't appreciate the class, the study, the work, our effort
 - d. This becomes like a self fulfilling curse
 - e. Notice the story of Gideon. God wanted him to get rid of the fearful and afraid **Judges 7:3** Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever *is fearful and afraid*, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. **Deuteronomy 20:8** And the officers shall speak further unto the people, and they shall say, What man *is there that is* fearful and fainthearted? let him go and return

unto his house, lest his brethren's heart faint as well as his heart.

- f. Our fear and worry about our class has the opposite effect on it that we want. It perpetuates itself in others

2. Notice how God slowly removes this from Gideon's heart.
The real problem isn't with my students but me!

- a. Gideon's problem-He doesn't really trust God to do the work that He is calling Him to do
 - i. He doubts that God is even with Israel [Judges 6:13](#) **And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, *if the Lord be with us, why* then is all this befallen us? and where *be* all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? **but now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us** into the hands of the Midianites.**
 - ii. All Gideon can see are his inadequacies [Judges 6:15](#) **And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family *is* poor in Manasseh, and I *am* the least in my father's house.**

iii. God has spoken to Gideon but that doesn't matter he wants proof **Judges 6:21** Then the angel of the Lord put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and **consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes.** Then the angel of the Lord departed out of his sight.

b. Notice how God slowly grows the faith of His man

i. He moved Gideon to build an altar and tear down another altar, small moves but important for him

Judges 6:26 And build an altar unto the Lord thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

ii. Gideon still doesn't believe but has the fleece experience

iii. God then tests his faith by removing all that could physically help him

iv. Gideon is still afraid so God sends him down to hear what He is already doing **Judges 7:9** And it came to pass the same night, that the Lord said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for **I have delivered it**

into thine hand. 10 **But if thou fear to go down,** go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host: 11 And thou shalt **hear what they say;** and afterward shall **thine hands be strengthened** to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that *were* in the host.

- c. Do you think that the God that has you serving Him is as patient with you as He was with Gideon
- d. Do you think that He might be at work in your life preparing you and making you a better teacher and worker

3. Steps you take

- a. Believe the Word of God
- b. Count it a privilege to serve where ever God has opened a door for you
- c. Humble yourself to His ways and His methods **Judges 7:2**
And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people that *are* with thee *are* **too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, **Mine own hand hath saved me.****

- d. Don't rely on your own abilities and smarts. Get ahold of God in prayer. Ask Him to work. Trust Him. Come excited because you know that He is at work. [Judges 7:16-17](#)
And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. 17
And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do
- e. Keep working as hard as you can to do what God has called you to do. Work on improving. Never think that you have arrived. [Judges 8:4](#) *And Gideon came to Jordan, and passed over, he, and the three hundred men that were with him, faint, yet pursuing them.*

4. Practical points

- a. No one will be excited unless you are
- b. No one will expect God to do something unless you do
- c. Pray and come believing God
- d. Contact your class-use email, text, calls
- e. Be a listener-it often hurts but it helps in the long run
- f. Show genuine personal interest and connect with them

- g. Answer their questions
- h. Don't turn it into a preaching session. You will preach a bunch but this is a small group on purpose
- i. If we wanted just publication and information then we could just have one large class
- j. Remember teaching is not sharing facts. You must “learn” your student. Not correct grammar but correct for the ministry
- k. The only ones to flunk out of Jesus’ ministry walked away on their own. He didn't flunk them He just taught them till they got it
- l. Discipleship is very different from what is commonly thought of as teaching!