

Too Many Men

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, announce 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.
Judges 7:2-3



God is pillar not a crutch. A pillar is a permanent support, crutches are typically temporary. God wants a full-time place in our lives, not a part-time position where He is only called upon in times of emergencies. Gideon and the Israelite army could have been tempted to rely upon their own strength, power, or numerical superiority. By whittling down their ranks God was kicking out those temporary props that sometimes take His place.

It's easy to fall into the trap of trusting our own resources when life is treating us kind. We may even begin to think our successes and victories are from our own cleverness, abilities, or good luck.

Unchecked, our puffed up pride will continue to expand until there is no room for the grace of God in our lives. It's no coincidence that the message of God is most often received by individuals who are painfully aware of their own weaknesses. So check your support structures and remember, God is a pillar not a crutch.

