PROTECTION THROUGH LOVE

"The Protector" Series Book Four

Since you have your armor on and are working with Jesus on spiritual warfare, Jesus will empower you with love to protect people who don't have their armor on yet.

By Mel D Westbrook MBTh

Chapter One

Now Let Me Explain The Specifics

Your next step is to learn how to hear the mind of Jesus in regards to time, location, resources, and efforts, as it relates to ministry issues. These aren't sin or righteousness issues. It still has to do with knowing, wanting, and doing. But, as it relates to following Jesus' leadership. This is more of a fine tuning of your life and ministry. Now that you are heading in the right direction, as it relates to sin and righteousness, Jesus wants you to turn your time, location, resources, and effort over to Him as well.

> Jesus, help me compare my Christian life with my Christian ministry, so as to get Your way of doing this. Just like You have had me stop exposing myself to the wrong places, written and printed material, TV programs, video games, internet sites, and associations with certain people, You are now wanting my ministry to start being more in Your control. Help me allow You to direct me to the places You want me to go, the resources You want me to use, the efforts You want me to be involved in, and the time You want me to spend doing that.

John 14:15 (NIV) If you love Me, you will obey what I command. Your obedience to the mind of Jesus, in Christian living, is empowered by your love for Him. He makes it clear what He wants you to do or not do and your love for Him brings it into being. That same love relationship will carry right on into your ministry. You will spend time helping others, so as to demonstrate your love for Him. However, helping others at your own discretion isn't what Jesus has in mind. If you love Him, you will do what He wants done, when He wants it done, where He wants it done, and to whom He wants it done.

> Jesus, help me see that just like I don't run my own Christian life without Your life and influence being lived through me, I don't do ministry without You completely controlling and providing me with everything I am doing. **John 15:5 (NIV) I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. Help me not only see that apart from You I can do nothing, this is also true, as it relates to ministry.**

Can't You Just Love Them For Me?

The next issue is where ministry gets a little more complicated. You have to love others, so the ministry can flow from Jesus, through you, to them. Without that love, you will not be a channel through which Jesus can flow to them. Jesus loves them. But, if for some reason you don't love a particular person, that lack of love will block off what Jesus wants to do through you to them. Additionally, you have to be able to demonstrate that love at a moment's notice.

Jesus, there are times when I struggle with certain people. There are times when I don't even like them, much less love them. But, help me forgive them for anything that has caused me to not like them. Help me to not be judgmental for things they do that I don't like. Help me not base my love on their looks or their personality. Help me love them based on the fact that You love them and died for them. Help me use God's love, that is described in Romans 5:5 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

Mark 10:17-20 (NIV) As Jesus started on His way, a man ran up to Him and fell on his knees before Him. "Good Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call Me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

Jesus, when You ask me to do something I feel like I am already doing, it becomes easy to obey You. I feel like I am really making progress in the ministry. If You ask me to do things I like doing, I am able to be totally obedient to the assignment. If You want me to protect someone I already like, then I can put my heat into it. But, help me not just obey those things I like and help those people that I am already their friend. Help me obey You no matter want the assignment is.

Mark 10:21-22 (NIV) Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," He said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me." At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. Jesus, this is where I need special help and power. Help me see how attached I am to finances, resources, comforts, conveniences, and pleasure. When You give me an assignment that causes me to feel like it is impossible, help me turn to You for help rather than walk away sad.

Love Is The Path Jesus Uses To Minister Through You

Suppose this rich man ran up to you and you had a real problem with rich people. What if you had such a problem with them that you couldn't stand them? That would be a moment, when Jesus wouldn't be able to do what He wanted to do through you. The power of God, the mind of Jesus, the presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and the right situation would all be there. Yet, the ministry of Jesus will not be done. Jesus' ministry can only be done through love. Everything you think, feel, say, and do must be based on it.

Jesus, help me be able to love and care for anyone You want me to protect. As it relates to my ministry, help me not find it difficult to protect anyone. Empower me to look beyond any personal preferences and see the hurts, needs, and struggles of any person You want me to help. Show me how important it is to give them everything You have to offer them. Help me see that any bad attitudes blocks off Your work in their life. It cheats them out of all You wanted to do for them.

On the other hand, suppose everything goes great, as Jesus ministers through you to the rich man. You feel the love of Jesus for him but just can't say anything that would hurt his feelings. You are a yielded vessel right up to the point of saying: **"Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow** Jesus**."** Because you don't want to hurt his feelings, you resist and don't let those words flow through your mouth. Love doesn't just consist of saying things people like to hear.

Isa 55:8-9 (NIV) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." Jesus, teach me that love can sometimes be very convicting. If I allow the love of God to take over, I will obey every aspect of His wishes and the rich man will go away sad. I know it is true that God is love. However, help me see that God has a timing and a purpose that I don't always understand.

Chapter Two

You Have To Be Submitted

John 5:3-6 (NIV) Here a great number of disabled people used to lie--the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, He asked him, "Do you want to get well?" What happens to you is, you are looking around and seeing all kinds of needs. Then, all of a sudden, a specific need touches your heart. The Holy Spirit points out someone, that Jesus wants you to protect and care for.

Jesus, teach me how to tell, when You are speaking to my heart about a certain person. As You were looking over all those physical needs, You knew exactly who You should help. Show me how to feel love for all of the needs I see. But, help me express that love for the person You are assigning me to protect. Let my love be intense for all suffering people, so that I will pray for them. But, lead me to that person You want me to help in a physical way.

The needs that exist all around you are much more numerous than you have the ability to meet. This was the case with Jesus. Even though there were a lot of people who were laying around the pool, Jesus went to one specific person. Why? Because the man had been in that condition for a long time? No. Because the Father told Him to. **John 12:49 (NIV) For I did not speak of My own accord, but the Father Who sent Me commanded Me what to say and how to say it.**

John 12:50 (NIV) I know that His command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told Me to say. Jesus, since You were under the guidance of our heavenly Father, help me see how much I must stay under Your and the Holy Spirit's guidance. Only You know who is the person that our Father has prepared for the care and protection You are assigning me to work with. Help me to be totally submitted, even when I really think I know who it is You want me to help.

John 14:10 (NIV) Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? The words I say to you are not just My own. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, Who is doing His work. Jesus' ministry was brought under the control of the Father. That made Jesus' ministry the Father's ministry. That is what is to happen to you. Your life and ministry are to be brought into submission to and cooperation with Jesus. He must be allowed to minister through you His way.

Jesus, Your words were brought under the authority of our Father, so we could get to know the Father. You came to show us the Father by doing His work in and through You. Help me see that this is the same purpose I have. I am to show everyone You, as the risen Messiah, so they can see You doing Your work in and through me. Help me see that this too is a love relationship. If I love You, I will be obedient to You. I will want everyone to get to know You and love You.

Saying that you are submitting your life and ministry to Jesus doesn't make it so. You must actually do it. Jesus knows who He wants to go minister to and when. You also have to know who Jesus wants you to go minister to. Because your time, resources, location, and effort are limited, Jesus is going to help you use them very wisely. Not one moment, cent, element of energy, or time spent in a certain location will be wasted, once you are effectively yielding in love to the mind of Jesus. You will be listening and yielding to everything He tells you.

Jesus, help me see that, as I *ask, seek,* and *knock*, I am going beyond just making up my human mind. By applying The Three Keys, I am looking to You for being able to do these things. By *asking,* I am inviting You into this assignment, so I can experience You working in and through me. By *seeking,* I am asking with love and intensity for the privilege of us working together to protect the hurting. By *knocking,* I am knocking on the doors of opportunity to join You in sharing all You have to offer with the right person.

Don't You Recognize My Voice?

John 10:14-16 (NIV) I am the good shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me--just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father--and I lay down My life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They *too* will listen to My voice, and there shall be one flock and one Shepherd. It's a sacrifice! There are a lot of other things you could be doing. There will be times when you don't feel like it. But, Jesus has, and you are, laying down your lives for the sheep.

Jesus, this is where it moves from information and theory to actually laying my life down for the hurting people around me. Empower me to do what it takes to expend my time, resources, and energy for those You want me to help. Fill my heart with the commitment, love, dedication, and power to do what needs to be done. Help me not use all these things up on the cares of this world that will soon pass away. Help me invest in eternity, where I will be thrilled that I had an eternal perspective.

You Will Know

The beginning and continuing relationship with Jesus is knowing Him and responding immediately to His voice. At first, He will start showing you how and when to respond to large, obvious issues. But, as time goes on, He will expect you to develop such a love relationship with Him that you are receptive and responsive to even the smallest details. Knowing what and when Jesus wants you to do something in a given situation isn't all that hard. He usually waits until He wants it done to talk to you. So, He is usually expecting an immediate response.

Jesus, help me understand that You always speak with clarity and power. I will know what You are asking me to do; and, I will have the power to do it immediately. The knowledge of what to do will come into my mind; the feelings will come into my heart; and the power to go do it will come into my body. Then help me be ready for the resistances of Satan trying to confuse me concerning whether or not I heard it from You, whether I am feeling the right feelings, and whether or not I really want to go do it.

Pray To Obey Immediately

Most of the time, when Jesus is asking you to do something, you will start worrying about whether or not you heard what Jesus is saying. But, even though those thoughts and feelings seem like they are coming from your mind and your heart, they *are* a satanic attack. If you *believe* they are coming from you, then that is how Satan gets them to become your thoughts and feelings. But, if you turn to Jesus and tell Him You know He told you to go, you know what He wants you to do, and you are ready to obey, then you will, at that point, win the battle.

Jesus, help me *know* that any doubts, feelings of fatigue, lack of desire to obey, confusion as to what You want, or any other resistive technique of the devil, is not my thoughts or feelings. Help me not *believe* they are from me. Help me resist them with confessions of faith and determination. Help me yield to Your faith, power, resolve, and love. Help me start thinking about how much this person is suffering and needs Your help. Let my heart respond to that love with such intensity, that I go in power and excitement.

What if Jesus talks to you and you miss it? It is Jesus' responsibility to talk to you in such a way that you will hear, understand, and have the power to do it immediately. You can relax on that issue. Where is the area where you have responsibility? Your responsibility is obedience and faith. You won't be facing any confusion, as to whether or not Jesus said it. You won't be having trouble knowing what He said. You will have a full understanding as to what it all means. You will also have all the power it is going to take to instantly fulfill the assignment.

Jesus, help me understand that my responsibility is obedience and faith. But, help me also know that my responsibility is really *asking, seeking,* and *knocking.* Help me realize that, as I pray for the power to obey and for You to speak faith into me, I have taken on the responsibility of obedience and faith. However, since my responsibility is obedience and faith, help me not *ask, seek,* and *knock* and feel like I have done my part. If I don't get the power to obey and believe, help me go to The Seven Biblical Principles and find out why not.

The thing you need to concern yourself with is, will you do it? Jesus will take good care of His part. You are only responsible for your part:

1. Jesus, help me be *willing* to obey Your wishes.

2. Help me *study* the Scriptures that speak truth into me, so I have the power of those truths helping me obey Your wishes.

3. Help me *pray* and ask You to empower me to obey Your wishes every time You give me an assignment.

4. Help me open up my heart to You, so You can speak faith into me. Give me the faith to *believe* I have the power to obey Your wishes.

5. Help me allow my eyes to look at the needs of the person You want me to help and protect? Let me allow that to help me *love* them enough to go care for them and protect them.

6. Help me know You have given me everything I need, so I can take *faith-action* and join You and go do what You want me to do.

This kind of prayer keeps you from just putting the whole responsibility on yourself. And, it helps you *not* put the whole responsibility on Jesus. You are consistently praying through this prayer that has been inspired by The Seven Biblical Principles. You are accepting your responsibility to find out why you are struggling with faith and obedience at times. Then, when you respond immediately to whatever Jesus asks you to do, you are then ready to fulfill the seventh Biblical Principle. You spend a lot of time thanking and praising Him for the privilege of doing what He asks you to do.

Ask Jesus to empower you to always be ready and willing to respond to the slightest indication that He wants to use you to help someone. Ask Him to help you with the two issues besides love that have to come into play--faith and obedience.

Chapter Three

I Believe You Are Trying To Get Me Killed

Acts 9:10-12 (NIV) In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." That sounds like a fun assignment that you could obey immediately, right? But, Ananias knows something about this man that he doesn't think Jesus knows.

> Jesus, help me not think I know things that You haven't taken into consideration. Help me hear the assignment and trust You to know what You are asking of me. Teach me how to open my heart and let You speak the assignment into me with faith and power. Help me let Your voice speak the creative words that You spoke, when You created the universe. Help me not hear them as human words of information, but rather words of power and transformation.

This is Jesus making sure Ananias knows exactly what He wants him to do. Obviously, Jesus isn't going to use this dramatic method of speaking out loud every time He wants you to do something. But, this gives you a very clear picture of the lengths Jesus will go, to make sure He gets you the message of what He wants you to do. But, when Jesus gives you an assignment, even though you know what He wants, when He wants it, and how He wants it done, it doesn't always come with everything being perfect for you.

Jesus, help me expect You to give me an assignment, at times, when it isn't convenient, when it isn't easy, or when it isn't something I want to do. Help me be ready to pray and ask You to help me through the issues that come up from the assignment. Help me not allow inconvenience, difficulty, or a lack of desire to hinder my obedience and faith. Help me immediately turn to You and ask for Your help, power, knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, and wisdom to be poured into my heart and mind.

Elements Of An Assignment

- Ananias knew for sure it was Jesus talking to him.
- He knew exactly what Jesus wanted him to do.
- There was no confusion as to when, why, and how it was to be done.
- Jesus spoke the power into him to do what he was told.

Problem solved, right? Wrong!

Jesus, help me realize that just because I know something doesn't mean I want to do it or feel like it is the right thing. Help me see that, if I don't have faith and obedience, I will struggle with those assignments You give me. Help me go through The Seven Biblical Principle's prayer to make sure my mind and heart are always prepared to trust You and obey You. You can speak with creative words that empower me to respond immediately. But, help me always keep in mind that I have a God-given free will that You honor with great respect.

Acts 9:13-14 (NIV) "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on Your name." Wow, Jesus almost messed up, right? It is obvious for you to see it in Ananias; but, you may miss it, when it comes to you. You can think thoughts and feel feelings that make absolutely no sense, as it relates to an assignment from Jesus. These thoughts and feels must be dealt with immediately.

Jesus, I know my thoughts and feelings don't always make sense. But, help me know when they don't. Help me not move forward with ignorant, senseless thoughts and feelings, as if they were legitimate. Help me always realize that I am working with You. You know everything; You love me more than I love myself; and You will only assign me to those things that are good for me and those around me. Help me see, in Ananias, what kinds of unfounded thoughts and feelings I can have.

Did Ananias actually believe that Jesus lacked this information? Was he expecting Jesus to let him off the hook, because He wasn't aware of the dangers? It's not likely that Ananias believed that at all. You can feel pretty confident that Ananias knew that Jesus knew everything relevant to this situation. Why was he arguing with Jesus? He was arguing with Jesus for the same type of reasons you argue with Him about. He lacked a complete faith, trust, reliance, dependency, and obedience on Him. You just don't want to go; and, you are trying come up with an excuse.

Jesus, help me see that a lot of the reasons I don't want to go aren't the ones I bring before You. I know deep down inside that it is because I am afraid of something; or, it is because it is inconvenient. Help me see that my heart often withholds real information from me. It has been given the assignment to protect me from danger, pain, and things I don't like. Reveal to me what my real reasons are for not exercising the power of faith and obedience You have given me. Then help me present the real reason before You, so I can be healed.

Your fear or disobedience may not be the same as Ananias'. But, you will often have a reason generated by fear or inconvenience. Since Ananias already knew that Jesus didn't make mistakes, you can see that he is struggling with something else. He knew Jesus is God. He knew that Jesus had all power and authority in heaven and on earth. **Mat 28:18 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.** And, you know all these things, as well. So, what is the problem?

Jesus, when I read things in the Bible that I know are true, but I struggle with living on the basis of them, help me realize that it is a heart issue. If I agree that the verse is truth, help me see that my heart is failing to embrace it. Help me turn to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to pray and intercede in my behalf. **Rom 8:26 (NIV) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. <u>We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express</u>.**

Since your heart doesn't have a normal language to use to express itself, all it can do is cause you to feel emotions. If those emotions are contrary to what Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or the Bible are telling you to do, then you can go to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to **intercede for** you **with groans that words cannot express.** When, on a mental level, you are ready to obey Jesus but there is this internal resistance, it isn't always the devil, world training, or your body. Your heart may not be open to the assignment.

Jesus, help me come to You, when I am struggling with an assignment. Show me what the source is, so I can use the appropriate method for dealing with it. If You show me it is the devil, empower me to resist him. If it is my body, help me present it as a living sacrifice. If it is world training, help me not be conformed to this world. But, if it is my heart, help me take it to the Holy Spirit and let Him pray and intercede in my behalf. Let me allow Him to help my heart express itself with emotions of **groans that words cannot express.**

Let Me See If I Can Come Up With A Good Excuse

Your excuses will fall into the category of self, time, location, resources, or effort. Jesus never comes to you with an assignment because you have nothing to do. He isn't saying, "Ananias, I noticed you weren't busy, so I thought maybe this would fit into your schedule." Jesus wants you to be willing to inconvenience yourself. Another thing that probably brought out the excuses in Ananias was because this assignment could be potentially dangerous. Ananias probably wanted to protect himself from pain or death.

Jesus, help me allow God's love, that the Holy Spirit poured into me, to live up to its full potential. Help me go to 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 and see what its capabilities are. Then help me pray over each of those characteristics and ask You to empower me to yield to them. If I struggle with one of these potential powers in love, help me bring it to You, so You can help me get healed in that area. Help me never forget that God's love is already in my heart. So, help me base my prayers on that fact.

If what Jesus asks you to do gets you killed, will you go anyway? As far as resources go, you only have one life to live. Additionally, Ananias may be wonderful at delegation. You can often be more than willing to let someone else do it. Let them spend their time, resources, and effort on the project. Feelings of inadequacy can also bring out the excuses. You can often be afraid that Jesus' assignment will bring embarrassment or failure. You might tell Jesus that you aren't qualified for such a high-profile case.

Jesus, Ananias may have been saying that Saul was way out of his league. He may have thought that this guy really knows the Bible. He might have felt like he didn't know what to say to Saul. Help me always keep in mind that You will be ready for me to allow You to work and speak through me. Help me enter into the assignment with the full knowledge that You will speak and work through me, if I will let You. Help me look to You, in my mind, as I allow these truths to help me accept the assignment.

Acts 9:15 (NIV) But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is My chosen instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel." Go! The message came when Jesus was ready for Ananias to go. Jesus won't listen to any of your excuses. When He gives you an assignment, He expects the assignment to be carried out and carried out immediately. If it isn't carried out by you, He will find someone else to do what they are told, when they are told. But, all you had to do was pray and ask Jesus to help you have faith and obey.

Jesus, this all sounds so simple. All I have to do is *ask, seek, and knock* and You will empower me to have faith and obey. But, I have had situations where I did that and didn't get results. Help me realize that, when that happens, I must go to The Seven Biblical Principles and find out what mandatory item in that list was breached. Help me not just use The Three Keys To All Of Christianity, not get results, and quit. Help me understand that these three keys are truths spoken right out of Your mouth, it will never be that they failed.

Now, let Jesus give you a look at another man who knew what it was Jesus was saying. He knew exactly what Jesus was saying; he knew what it meant, and he had the power to carry out the assignment instantly.

Chapter Four

I'm Trying To Work It Into My Schedule

Luke 9:59-60 (NIV) He said to another man, "Follow Me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." The man's request sounds reasonable. First let me bury my dad. What is wrong with that? Disobedience. You may not like this kind of inflexibility. You may want to carry out your agenda first. Then, when you get around to it, you carry out Jesus' assignment.

Jesus, help me see Your assignments as being like working in the intensive care unit in a hospital. Help me see it like firemen getting an alarm that a major fire needs being dealt with. Help me understand that You and I are dealing with eternal issues. It is much more important for me to respond immediately than any other profession. Give me the attitude of not just obedience and faith in You, help me allow love to dominate my relationship with You and with the person You are wanting me to help and protect.

The problem with the approach of you doing something first before you do what Jesus wants is, the opportunity to carry out the assignment will have passed. When Jesus gave that man an opportunity to follow Him, if he didn't do it immediately, Jesus moved on. Why? Jesus doesn't give you an assignment or command until it is time to respond. Jesus already has you doing what He wants you doing, before He gives you another assignment. That is God's will for your life. Then when Jesus gives you a new assignment, that is God's will for your life.

Jesus, help me see that the way to know what God's will is for my life is to get in it and stay there until I get another assignment. Help me not always be wondering what God's will is for me. Help me simply find out what it is for now and stay there until further notice. Help me just stay open for a new assignment. Show me that I don't have to be confused. Help me know that You will make it clear to me at the moment You are ready for me to move to the next will for my life. In the meantime, help me be busy doing my current assignment.

This next example is the type of time table God works on. **Mark 14:13 (NIV) So He sent two of His disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man *carrying* a jar of water will *meet* you. *Follow* him."** If they were looking for a man standing somewhere with a jar of water, they would have a little lea way. But, no. They are entering the city and the man is coming their way. They have to be there at the moment that happens. There is no time for any side-trips.

Jesus, You are running the universe like clockwork. You are making sure people all over the world are getting their prayers answered. You make sure a solution arrives at the perfect time for the problem to handled. You make sure people cross paths right when they need to meet one another. You leave nothing to chance. When You give me an assignment, help me understand that You aren't just meeting that person's needs, You are also meeting my needs. You are matching my spiritual needs to their spiritual needs, so we have a win/win situation.

Why is God so demanding? He has a timing. He is coordinating and orchestrating events all over the world. Many of the assignments that Jesus gives you are very time sensitive. That is why the Bible says that Peter and Andrew, James and John left their nets immediately. Jesus showed up in their lives just at the moment when they needed to leave their nets. Since He didn't show up too early or too late, their response had to be immediate. When their response was immediate, it wasn't too early or too late.

Jesus, I have time sensitive schedules, plans, and activities. I understand what it is to need to be somewhere at an exact time. Help me see that, if I have time sensitive projects, You have supernatural time sensitive projects. I have had to drive, use power tools, and work on delicate things. In many of those moments, I have had to be very conscious of every move I made. Help me not misunderstand how important Your work is. Help me have a flexible schedule, so You can assign me at a moment's notice.

Failing The Assignment

John 8:3-4 (NIV) The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. Did these people care about the woman? Did they care if she was where she was because of some power over her? Since we know what their motive was for bringing her, it is highly possible that she was set up. These are ministers of God! They have the assignment of taking care of Jesus' sheep.

Jesus, help me see how I can find out about someone's sin and make major judgments about them. Help me understand that my job is to see if I can help them out of their situation. Help me not care how or why they got there. Help me see if their situation can be fixed. Help me not care what it is they have done or are doing. Help me just see if there is a way for them to come to You and get completely set free from it all. Show me that my job is to love people enough to at least try to bring them to You for transformation.

John 8:5 (NIV) In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do You say?" This is a woman's life! If she was a major influencer that was corrupting people, then this capital-punishment law was written just for that situation. Were these "men of God" trying to save the society from an evil woman that was teaching young children to get involved in immorality? They didn't care about their assignment of protecting their people. They were after money, possessions, positions, power, popularity, prestige, pleasure, and accomplishments.

Jesus, I can see what the things of this world can do to me. I can become addicted to them and lose all love and compassion for the people around me. Protect me from these ministerial and Christian killers that suck the love right out of my heart. Help me be like You and care totally about people, no matter what they have done or are doing. Help me see that these evil people were ready to end a life without concern for her eternal destiny. Help me see how important love is. Help me protect through love.

John 8:6-7 (NIV) They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing Him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with His finger. When they kept on questioning Him, He straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." This is the most important test for whether or not you qualify to be judging someone. Are you perfect? So, leave judging to Jesus. You just see if you can help the person out of their situation. Share your story and the Word with them without attitude.

Jesus, these are the people who are trying to keep me from getting to those who want You. They are trying to trap You, so they can go on getting all their human drives and cravings met. Help me see that even though they are religious and business people, they lack the love they need to do the job. Help me understand that they can't help people because they don't care about people. And, when they see that You do, they will come after us to keep us from showing people that there is a much better way to do religion and business.

John 8:8 (NIV) Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Jesus didn't try to teach or lead these people into His truths. He didn't sit down with them and show them a better way of life. He knew they were wolves in sheep's clothing. They were unteachable and would take anything He said and twist it to fit their agenda. He was just trying to protect the woman from their evil plot. Your job is to let Jesus give you the wisdom and truth that helps you get people like her out of their control.

Jesus, help me see that arguing, reasoning, or trying to convert these people isn't my job. Help me not get distracted by what they are trying to draw me into. It wasn't about whether or not the woman was to be stoned. It was whether or not You would accept their bait. Give me incredible wisdom and insight into the motives of these types of people. Help me address them in such a way that the innocent people under their influence can see who they are. Let them help the hurting to break free from these monsters and come to You.

John 8:9 (NIV) At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. This is your goal! Your job is to break away from evil people and help the innocent to also be separated from them. Spend as little time as you can getting rid of them, so you can spend your time with those who want Jesus. Ask Jesus to give you the words that will drive the evil ones away, so all you have left are the ones who are open to your message of Jesus.

Jesus, I can see how sinister of a trap that was laid for You. You could have spent time talking to them trying to combat their questions and prove them wrong. You could have ignored the needs of the woman and tried to protect Your doctrines and reputation. But, because of You perfect attitudes and character, they didn't distract You, appeal to Your ego, or get You to address their question. Help me see that You addressed their attitudes and character. You brought them down to the issues of godliness, holiness, purity, and righteousness.

John 8:10 (NIV) Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" One of your major jobs is protecting people from condemnation. Satan has convinced many people that what they have done or are doing has permanently separated them from God. They don't know that they *had to want* to be separated. It is a powerful moment, when they find out that Jesus is very desirous to save them and transform them.

Jesus, help me start eliminating the condemnation that is in people's lives. Help me not do it by justifying them sinning on purpose. Help me do it by showing them that You want to give them the new **want** and **hate** of Romans 7:15. Help me lead them into praying Your prayer and then going to Romans 10:8-10 and helping them be saved and justified. Then help me teach them about their perfect record that allows them to get Your power to start experiencing sanctification through spiritual growth.

John 8:11 (NIV) "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." This is a supernatural power moment, where Jesus heals a sinner. You have seen Him heal physical bodies with His creative power words. But, this is a very special example, where He speaks to this woman and empowers her to **go now and leave your life of sin.** Jesus has us leading people into salvation a different way; but, it is vital that You see what Jesus' objective was.

Jesus, help me see how I can take a person through Your Lord's Prayer and then take them to Romans 10:8-10 and bring them into salvation and justification. Then help me allow You to speak Your transforming words to them, so they have the power to go live a different life. Help me see that if I don't allow You to speak to them with these creative words, they will go away without Your power. Help me also make sure that I see to it that they are helped to grow in Your Word, so they can start living a Biblical life.

Chapter Five

Is That Really You Jesus?

Judg 6:11 (NIV) 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. The Jewish people had been living a very ungodly life; so, God let the Midianites oppress them. But, God decided to deliver them from the Midianites by using Gideon, a very reluctant protector. He definitely wasn't suffering with pride; and, he wasn't filled with faith and obedience.

Jesus, when things are going wrong in my life, help me not allow them to take me down into feelings of defeat, hopelessness, and helplessness. Help me maintain a victorious attitude in my heart and mind. Help me see that, if my attitude remains filled with the fruit of the Spirit, it is much easier to face the crises of life and win. Help me not let constant negative circumstances wear me down. Empower me to keep a close relationship with You, so that You are my evaluation of life.

Judg 6:12 (NIV) When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior." This statement wasn't reverse psychology. The angel wasn't saying this trying to build up Gideon's confidence. In the spirit realm words are creative. When you read your Bible and it says something like **be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power (Eph 6:10 NIV),** it isn't putting the responsibility on your human effort. It is speaking these creative words into your life. All you have to do is believe it was created.

Jesus, help me read and pray over the verses in the Bible that are there to be created in me. Help me read them, pray over them, and then believe that they have spoken that spiritual truth into me. Help me remember what it says and start to practice living on the basis of the fact that I have it as a part of me. Help me remember to thank You for putting it in the Bible, so I could read, pray, and receive it, as a wonderful creation in my attitudes, character, and behavior.

Judg 6:13 (NIV) "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the LORD bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the LORD has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian." People can lie, cheat, steal, be immoral, hate, gossip, and hurt all kinds of people and then wonder why God allows bad things to happen to them. Jesus is working on your attitudes and character, so these things don't do damage to you and your friends.

Gal 6:7 (NIV) Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Jesus, if I sin, help me not wonder why I am reaping the consequences of what I did. Help me understand that, even though I come to you and get forgiveness, I will still get the results of what I did. Help me see that this keeps me from trying to get by with sinning and then using repentance as my escape door. Help me see that You are wiser than that. You have anticipated all human schemes, shortcuts, and manipulations.

Judg 6:14 (NIV) The LORD turned to him and said, "Go in <u>the strength you have</u> and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" What strength does Gideon have? Do you remember the creative words that were spoken into Gideon in Judges 6:12? **"The LORD is with you, mighty warrior."** Jesus doesn't expect you to go in your own strength, human effort, or world wisdom. He knows that people can't be transformed by these things. The whole Bible is based on the supernatural.

Jesus, help me understand that the whole problem in Romans 7:15-24 is because human effort and world training were being used to try to live the Christian life. Set me free from misunderstanding any Scripture in the Bible, where it looks like You are telling me to use my skills, talents, efforts, or experiences. Help me always be aware that the moment I slip into them, I will fail. Help me constantly be looking to You for giving me everything I need. That way, I will always be empowered through Your supernatural power.

Judg 6:15 (NIV) "But Lord," Gideon asked, "how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." This is a typical and constant problem. Satan will always be trying to get your eyes off of Jesus onto yourself and what *you* can do. Since the whole Christian life is based on the supernatural, the moment you compare the assignment with your abilities, resources, and wisdom, you will have this same reaction.

Jesus, help me keep my eyes on You. Like when Peter got his eyes off of You, as he was walking on the water, help me see that I will sink. When I find myself fearing, doubting, worrying, or disobeying, help me start bringing my faith before You. Let me use my failures as signals that are warning me that my eyes have moved off of You onto myself or the circumstances. The moment when I have a problem with an assignment, let it signal me that I need to get my eyes back on You. Help me come to You in prayer.

Judg 6:16 (NIV) The LORD answered, "I will be *with* you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together." "With" is the important word. Jesus doesn't just give you His power and walk off. As a matter of fact, He doesn't actually give *you* His power. When you feel power and when you do something powerful, you are experiencing Jesus. We humans are not ready to be trusted with supernatural power. Jesus' power is holding the universe together.

Col 1:16-17 (NIV) For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Jesus, help me always keep in mind that I am never thinking, feeling, saying, or doing anything supernatural. Help me understand that all these supernatural things are You. I am experiencing You in all these moments of supernatural manifestations.

Judg 6:17 (NIV) Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. Now you have come to the main point of this study and prayer time. **John 10:27 (NIV) My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.** If, every time, Jesus has to go through proving to you that He is speaking to you, there is something wrong with your relationship with Him. Jesus has a tone and a content that help you recognize Him easily. How He sounds and what He typically says, is your clue.

Jesus, help me learn to feel Your presence in my heart, when You speak. Help me to know how You talk and what You typically say. Help me have such a close relationship with You that I can recognize Your voice based on all the Scriptures You have taught me. Help me also immediately recognize any other voice by Scriptures popping up in my mind that refute what is being said. And, help me feel it in my heart, as I experience a warning. If I experience a warning, help me bring it to You in prayer, as we go over the Bible together.

Getting Ready For The Assignment

Judg 6:25-26 (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. Then build a proper kind of altar to the LORD your God on the top of this height. Using the wood of the Asherah pole that you cut down, offer the second bull as a burnt offering." Some assignments require spiritual preparation before they can be initiated. A person can be involved in things that you need to be prepared for first.

Jesus, when I am getting ready to protect someone who has been involved in false religions or satanic rituals, help me get ready for it personally and then help them get freed from it. Help me go over the items of my full armor and pray that each of them is in the proper place and condition. Help me bring each of them before You, so You can help me see whether or not I am spiritually ready to walk safely into a satanic stronghold. Help me know that my full armor is invincible, I just have to have it in the proper place in my life.

Judg 6:27 (NIV) So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the LORD told him. But <u>because he was afraid of his family and the men of the town</u>, he did it at night rather than in the daytime. Sometimes you can experience fear because Jesus isn't empowering you to do it the way you think it should be done. Gideon could have felt like the noble and courageous way would be to do it during the day. But, God didn't give him the power to do it during the day. So, he rightly did it at night, when he wouldn't be stopped by a whole bunch of resisting people.

Jesus, help me not just find out *what* You want me to do. Help me know what, why, when, how, where, and with whom. Help me not make any assumptions, when You give me an assignment to protect a person or a group. If I experience fear or some kind of weakness, help me find out why it is happening. Help me use all negative emotional experiences, as signals to bring what I am about to do before You. Show me that I need to be walking in Your Spirit one-hundred percent of the time.

Judg 6:28 (NIV) In the morning when the men of the town got up, there was Baal's altar, demolished, with the Asherah pole beside it cut down and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar! The person you are going to protect doesn't always know what it is you are going to require of them. Many of them have no idea why they are suffering the things they are going through. It will be obvious to you; but, a lot of it won't be obvious to them. So, be ready for some push back, when you start requiring them to give up things.

Jesus, help me be a lot gentler with those I am protecting. Help me see that these people, that Gideon was working with, were thoroughly trained in Your Word and knew they were doing wrong. He was exercising judgment on their religious practices. So, help me only make these moves based on how You want it approached. If You want me to be strong and forceful, then help me do it that way. But, if You want me to spend time helping them understand why, then let me be ready to do it that way.

Judg 6:29 (NIV) They asked each other, "Who did this?" When they carefully investigated, they were told, "Gideon son of Joash did it." As you get actively involved in protecting more and more people, you will gradually create enough damage in Satan's kingdom to draw his attention. The more people you protect, the more resistance you will experience. Jesus wants you to see that resistance, as your indication concerning how great a job you are doing. The more resistance you experience, the greater the job you are doing, at demolishing Satan's strongholds.

Mat 5:11-12 (NIV) Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <u>Rejoice and be glad</u>, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Jesus, help me not do anything just to cause resistance. Help me cause resistance because You are empowering me to bring large quantities of people to You, and, because I am helping them grow spiritually, so they can do the same thing.

Judg 6:30-31 (NIV) The men of the town demanded of Joash, "Bring out your son. He must die, because he has broken down Baal's altar and cut down the Asherah pole beside it." But Joash replied to the hostile crowd around him, "Are you going to plead Baal's cause? Are you trying to save him? Whoever fights for him shall be put to death by morning! If Baal really is a god, he can defend himself when someone breaks down his altar."

Jesus, help me see that You will send people to protect me, as I go around protecting others. Show me that You caused Joash to feel the way he did. You put those thoughts, feelings, and attitudes in him, so Gideon would be able to go do Your work that You told him to do. Help me be so active in Your work that You protect me, so I can keep protecting the people You want protected. Help me understand that I won't always have to protect myself. You will send me helpers to assist me in doing Your work.

Judg 6:32 (NIV) So that day they called Gideon "Jerub-Baal, " saying, "Let Baal contend with him," because he broke down Baal's altar. As you go about protecting those Jesus sends you to, there will be people who will try to bring curses on you. They will say all kinds of things to you, hoping you will believe what they say. Just keep in mind that Satan isn't powerful enough to do anything to you. You have to be convinced that what he and his people are saying will happen or are true. Only your faith can make Satan's words come true in you.

James 4:7 (NIV) Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Jesus, make it clear to me that nothing Satan says will come true without my faith. Help me keep my faith in You and not in what his people say to me. Their curses, spells, incantations, and evil words will have no effect on me, as long as I am submitted to You and only believe in You and the Bible. Empower me to never put any faith in anything Satan or his people say about me or to me.

The study and prayer time concerning Gideon will be continued for a short period in next week's presentation. He was such a good example of various spiritual principles that God had his account included in His Book. Ask Jesus to help you be ready to take advantage of the truths included in Gideon's protection ministry for the nation of Israel.

Chapter Six

Lives Don't Always Get Better

Judg 6:33 (NIV) Now all the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples joined forces and crossed over the Jordan and camped in the Valley of Jezreel. When Jesus assigns you to protect someone, that doesn't mean that all you have to do is help them with their past and current situations. Their life may have been on a pretty normal path until you came along. Yes, they were suffering; yes, they had problems that they needed Jesus' help with; but, other than that, things had been going on like that for quite a while.

Jesus, help me realize that Satan will often try to sabotage my relationship with the person You send me to protect. Show me that it can be like Moses' protection ministry, where the taskmasters made their lives worse, once Moses came to take them out of Egypt. Help me not doubt Your assignment. Help me show my friend that this is typical of Satan's tactics. Help me teach them how to start resisting Satan and not be afraid of him. Help me start teaching them how to attack Satan rather than try to hide from him.

Judg 6:34 (NIV) <u>Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon</u>, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him. Before Acts 2:4, where the Holy Spirit became available to all who became Christians, people like Gideon, David, and Samson didn't were the only ones who had the Holy Spirit available to them. The words **"came upon"** is like the baptism is for you. The Holy Spirit *comes in* all Christians. Then when you allow Jesus to baptize you into the Holy Spirit, He "comes on" you for ministry like Gideon.

Jesus, help me not only have the Holy Spirit in me. Help me be baptized into Him, so every fiber of my body is saturated by Him. Let Him help me internally to live the Christian life. And, let Him help me externally to do the protection ministry with power. **Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive *power* when the Holy Spirit *comes on* you; and you will be *My witnesses* in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

Judg 6:35 (NIV) He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, calling them to arms, and also into Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali, so that they too went up to meet them. Your protection ministry doesn't just involve you. Part of protecting your friends is making sure that they get the additional help they need. They need to go to a *good* church and small group. They need to listen to *good* Christian music and read *good* Christian books. They need to read their Bible and pray. And, they need to avoid those things that damage their relationship with Jesus.

Jesus, help me not try to do all the protecting myself. Guide me to good literature, music, a church, a small group, a Bible-reading program, and material on prayer. Help me to do what it takes to find out what is best for my friends. Help me understand that those things that are meaningful to me will probably be too much for new Christians and may be too much for untrained Christians. Help me remember how little I was able to comprehend, as a new or untrained Christian. Help me love them enough to do the necessary research.

Judg 6:36-37 (NIV) Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised--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." This may not look like there is anything wrong with this procedure. But, God is all about relationships. He is looking for faith and obedience in that relationship. This is asking God to prove He is telling the truth, rather than taking Him at His word.

Jesus, help me to know it is You, by knowing that what is being said doesn't break any Scriptures. Then help me know it is You by it fulfilling Scriptures of love. Then let me know it is You, by You giving me the faith and the power to do it. Then let me know it is You, by You joining me in doing the assignment together: Let us do it together by You showing me things in my mind that give wisdom to the assignment. Let it be together by You helping me feel Your love flow out of me to the person I am assigned to. Let it be together by You helping me do supernatural things that bring healing and blessings to them.

Judg 6:38 (NIV) And that is what happened. Gideon rose early the next day; he squeezed the fleece and wrung out the dew--a bowlful of water. Just because God caters to your requirements of proof, doesn't mean that is what He wants for Him and you. He will treat it as step one in building a relationship with you. It is His desire that this concession help you use it to learn to move on into a trust relationship with Him. A fleece is a yes or no relationship. God wants to spend time with you carrying on conversations.

Jesus, help me go beyond giving You yes or no questions. Help me go beyond just wanting to know if I am in Your will or not. Help me not only find out whether or not something is legal for me to do, help me find out why it is or isn't okay. And, help me find out if You would rather I do something else. Help me get to know You and Your principles better by spending time in Your Word. Help me study to get all the principles behind all those things that are Your will. Help me be searching for the depths of Your Word that help me love You and people though the acts of my Biblical behavior.

Judg 6:39-40 (NIV) Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me. Let me make just one more request. Allow me one more test with the fleece. This time make the fleece dry and the ground covered with dew." That night God did so. Only the fleece was dry; all the ground was covered with dew. Do you see where this takes you? If you don't really have a trust relationship with God, it is difficult to accept His proof at face value. You need more proof. Your proof needs to be the life you got at salvation. Gideon didn't get that proof.

Rom 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Jesus, let this be enough for me to trust You, believe in You, rely on You, and get my faith from You. Help me love You so much that I don't need You to give me any more proof than the cross. Help me protect my friends by helping them get this kind of proof rather than some miracle. Help us see that proof based on love is the most powerful proof we can get.

I'm Starting To Trust You

Judg 7:1 (NIV) Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. As you get used to supernatural things, you will relax and accept assignments with a little more faith and trust. Gideon is taking faith-actions based on a couple of fleece miracles. You will be taking faith-action based on a love relationship with Jesus. You will provide proof to help your friend's faith and trust through you sharing the miracles God has done for you.

Jesus, my friends must have convincing proof, so they can trust You for their life. Help me understand that my faith, trust, and obedience comes from what You have done for me. Help me get them started looking for miracles in their life. Help me set them free from attributing Your miracles to random evens, luck, karma, or something in response to their good deeds. Help me show them that their relationship with God is based on Him blessing them and them being thankful for the blessing and allowing it to improve their relationship.

Judg 7:2 (NIV) 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 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. Can you see how Gideon and God's relationship is growing? Gideon is allowing men go that he could be counting on to win the battle. His faith is growing in God's power.

Jesus, help my friend's and I to grow in our faith and trust in You. Just like the presence of the Holy Spirit on Gideon helped him feel a trust in You, help us allow Him to help us relax in our relationship with You. Help me yield to a faith and trust that removes fears, doubts, worries, and anxieties. Help me have such great conversations with You that I relax and just start doing everything You instruct me to do. Help me go about my day with You talking to me in my mind. Help me get used to just doing what You instruct me to do; let it come a habit.

Judg 7:4 (NIV) But the LORD said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will sift them for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go." If you are counting on numbers to help you win a battle, then you will have a hard time doing what God is telling you to do. If you are counting on money and He asks you to give it away, that will strain the relationship. But, if your faith is in God, He can ask you anything and you will do it.

Jesus, help me see this growth in Gideon. He started out with almost no faith or trust in You. Now he is giving up what would seem to be his most valuable assets. Help me see that this is the kind of evidence I need, so I can tell where my faith is and where the faith of my friends are. If we find that our faith is in something else, help us bring it to You, so You can heal us from its control. Help us to grow like Gideon grew.

Judg 7:5-7 (NIV) So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the LORD told him, "Separate those who lap the water with their tongues like a dog from those who kneel down to drink." Three hundred men lapped with their hands to their mouths. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. The LORD said to Gideon, "<u>With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands</u>. Let all the other men go, each to his own place."

Jesus, help me realize that this didn't make sense, on a human level. Gideon was facing a huge, skilled, vicious, and evil army. Help me see where I need to be in my attitudes and character, so that I am in the spiritual condition to protect others. Help me be a person who trusts You to this degree, so my leadership is based on the same faith, trust, and love Gideon developed in You. Help me see what this kind of leadership and protection does to those around me. If Gideon hadn't become this person, the people wouldn't have experienced the victory.

Chapter Seven

Jesus Builds Faith On Faith

Judg 7:8 (NIV) So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites to their tents but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others. Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley. Gideon doesn't know what God is going to do; he is just following orders. Do you feel you can do your protection ministry that way? Or, do you think you will start second-guessing what God needs to do to help your friends. Can you listen to God, so He can direct you into helping your friends supernaturally?

Jesus, as I look at my friends and see what they are going through, there are things that they are doing that I don't agree with. They are doing things that are obviously not Biblical. But, help me realize that the only way for them to be healed and blessed is to receive the Biblical training You want me to give them. Help me seek You to guide me into what to teach first. What to spend a lot of time on and what to just touch lightly. Help me realize that this has to be done supernaturally or it won't work miracles in their life.

Judg 7:9 (NIV) 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. God may not be telling what His plans are for the moment; but He will help you keep your trust in Him. To be a powerful protection minister like Gideon, a lot of the success consists of those two things that Jesus has been already teaching you. You need the faith and obedience of Gideon. If Gideon was constantly pushing back on what God asked him to do, he wouldn't be at this place.

Jesus, help me understand that faith and obedience are two vital ingredients in supernatural success. Help me offer my friends a protection ministry that is based on these two things. Help me see that it provides them with a leader that is much more valuable to them. When these two things are in place, they are getting Your knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, wisdom, love, and power. Help me always keep in mind that You have what they need and not me. Help me yield to You, so they get You.

Judg 7:10-11 (NIV) If you are afraid to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah 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. The words, **"If you are afraid to attack,"** aren't God not being sure what Gideon was going through. But, keep in mind that God speaks with creative power. So, He didn't speak fear into Gideon; He used the word **"if"** to convey the current condition without creating it.

Jesus, You know everything. You knew Gideon was struggling with fear of attacking. Help me realize that You are always there to help me with everything. You read my mind and heart and know what to do to help me be a dynamic protector for my friends. The whole nation of Israel was dependent on Gideon's ministry. The three-hundred men were putting their lives on the line with Gideon. Help me see the importance of trusting You to make sure I get what I need, by putting my total trust in You.

Judg 7:12 (NIV) The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore. Does this sound like an army that three-hundred people could handle? The truth of the matter was, there was absolutely nothing the people of Israel could put together to defeat this army. This is what you and your friends are up against. There is no way you are going to use human effort and world training to defeat the forces of Satan.

Jesus, Satan and his forces are operating in the spirit realm where the physical realm is controlled. They are working with diseases, temptations, circumstances, and evil people that are manipulation the physical realm from the spirit realm. You are trying to teach my friends and I how to function in the spirit realm, as children of God. Help us not keep trying to handle this physical realm using inadequate systems that don't stand a chance against the spirit realm. Help me lead my friends into being mighty warriors by getting their full armor on.

Judg 7:13 (NIV) Gideon arrived <u>just as a man was telling a friend his dream</u>. "I had a dream," he was saying. "A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed." Once again, you can see how time-sensitive the things of God are. Jesus told Gideon to go and Gideon went. And, **Gideon arrived *just as* a man was telling a friend his dream.**

2 Tim 4:2 (NIV) Preach the Word; <u>be prepared in season and out of season</u>; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. Jesus, help me always be ready to respond to what You want me to do. Help me not be prepared with human tension or anxiety. Help me be prepared with an attitude of readiness that only You can give. Teach me what I need to study, pray for, and memorize that will help me be able to respond to any spiritual emergency at a moment's notice.

Judg 7:14 (NIV) His friend responded, "This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands." God orchestrated this conversation on both sides. It was the message that He had put in the hearts of all the soldiers in this army. He was preparing their hearts and minds for defeat. Satan wasn't powerful enough to keep them confident, when God wanted them to be defeated. Satan's plans don't prevail, when God wants you to win.

Prov 19:21 (NIV) Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. Jesus, help me see how the spirit realm works, when I am yielding to You. Satan doesn't stand a chance, when I am fill with faith and being obedient. The battle isn't hard to win; it is my heart and mind that are hard to win. You didn't have any problem with this huge army; it was the battle that had to be fought in Gideon's mind and heart. As long as he was filled with doubts, defeat, and hopelessness. Satan was on schedule to win.

Judg 7:15 (NIV) When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands." The battles you are going to face, in your own life, are challenging enough. For a human, like Gideon, to take on a whole nation that was facing what seemed to be an invincible army of doom, that was some assignment of ministerial protection. But, all it took was for Gideon to have faith and obey.

Jesus, help me see that I have a situation like Gideon's. But, the army I am fighting against isn't one I can see or engage on a physical level. I am fighting for a nation; You are calling me to engage in a war that involves Christians. You are asking me to rally the World Changers into a battle that is ready to be won. All we have to do is allow You to put faith in our hearts and minds like You did Gideon. Help me go forth and rally the spiritual troupes to the engagement. Help me be the kind of protector that Gideon was.

Judg 7:15 (NIV) When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands." Everything that God had been doing in Gideon's life was now ready to be put to the battle. One man's relationship with Jesus made the difference. The only reason these three-hundred men were being rallied was because of Gideon. They would have still been in their beds waiting to be slaughtered by a merciless army.

Jesus, I can see that Gideon didn't start out as anyone special. It is obvious that Your creative words were the reason he felt like he did, thought like he did, spoke like he did, and took action like he did. Help me understand that You just need me to put my faith in You and obey You. You have my friends waiting for someone to protect them long enough for them to get their full armor on. Help me see that Satan already has his army positioned to destroy all the people on this planet. You just need a Gideon to respond to Your creative words.

Judg 7:16 (NIV) Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside. Each one of the three-hundred men were holding what would typically be a commander in charge of an army of men. To the enemy army, it would look like they were surrounded by three-hundred armies. God doesn't struggle with ideas and ways for you to win. He doesn't have any problem influencing your enemies into defeat. He just has a real challenge getting you to believe and obey Him.

Jesus, this situation looked impossible until I could see Your plan. It is now obvious why You only needed three-hundred men. It is now obvious why You choose the three-hundred men that You could trust with the assignment. And, it is obvious why You sent Your angel to talk to Gideon. Help me see that the greatest challenge You face is getting people with a God-given free will to submit to Your plan. Help me see this historical event and allow You to speak faith and obedience into my heart on a permanent basis.

Judg 7:17 (NIV) "Watch me," he told them. "Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. Once Gideon had God's plan revealed in his mind, all he had to do was duplicate it in the minds of the three-hundred men. But, until Gideon got the plan, there was no plan that Gideon would be able to think of that would defeat this army. The reason you need to invite Jesus into every move you make, is so you will be at the right place, at the right time, doing and saying the right things to the right people.

Jesus, once Your plan was put into place, it was exponentially expandable. The equipment was simple; the plan was simple; and, the implementation was simple. Help me see that the plan You have for spreading You message around the world has the same simple aspects to it. Show me that all Gideon had to have was a group of people who didn't like the plan and the whole thing would have been ruined. Help me realize that You are handpicking the people You want me to protect, so I will have people who will believe and obey.

Judg 7:18 (NIV) When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon.'" Now do you see why those specific people were picked by God? All Gideon would have to have was one disobedient person who "jumped the gun" and went too soon and that huge army would have been prematurely warned. Jesus has to be listened to and obeyed to the letter. Pray and ask Him to help you be that person and help you join people like that.

Jesus, Gideon was being totally obedient to You. Even when he had no idea what Your plan was, even when Your plan made no sense, even when the size of the army looked impossible to defeat, Gideon did what he was told. Help me see that I am up against an army and a leader who are far more vicious, deceitful, inventive, ingenious, and powerful. But, help me keep in mind that the army isn't any problem with You. I and my friends and our God-given free will are Your number one problem. Help us submit totally to You.

Judg 7:19 (NIV) Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. So, Gideon took one-hundred men with him and then spread the other two-hundred individuals around the camp by themselves. With one-hundred clustered together, it was easy for those standing alone around the army to see, when they broke the vase that has been covering their torch and sounded their trumpets.

Jesus, You put a message, a ministry, a method, and a life together that, if implemented, would exponentially spread like a forest fire around the world. But, we have changed all of it, so that it has lost a lot of its power and effectiveness. Help me see that Your plan requires the same type of cooperation as Gideon's. Help me fix my eyes on the camp of Your disciples like the two-hundred did with Gideon's one-hundred and follow Your and their lead to the letter. Help me understand that, that is the only way for it to be fulfilled.

Judg 7:20 (NIV) The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" There were no dissenters, revisionists, improvers, or rebels. They were in one mind and one place for one purpose. Faith and obedience reigned in every step of the plan and the plan was implemented with godly precision. Jesus was totally obeyed and the work was accomplished in supernatural power.

Jesus, I see what will happen, when I give myself over to You completely. I see Your brilliance; I see Your power over evil; and I see Your love for Your people. There is absolutely nothing wrong with You. The reason things are not going according to plan is because I have been implementing the wrong plan. After being exposed to this historical event, I can see what needs to be prayed for and yielded to. Since nothings is impossible for You, all I have to do is join You and the end results will be obvious.

Chapter Eight

The Fear Of God

Judg 7:21 (NIV) While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled. The enemies of God don't stand a chance, once you put your trust in Him. When you get in that place, where God is trying to get you, nothing will be impossible for you. Jesus will be flowing through you; and, the needs and protections of the people will be accomplished. It was all waiting on that progressive spiritual growth like took place in Gideon.

Jesus, I have been thinking that the issues were the difficult thing. I haven't been realizing that it is me and my friends that are posing the problem. Because of our God-given free will, we are what is holding up all the blessings, healings, miracles, and supernatural victories. Help me see how powerful You work and how dynamic a victory You produce, when we give our lives over to You like Gideon and the three-hundred men did. The rest is totally simple for You to bring into existence.

Judg 7:22 (NIV) When the three hundred trumpets sounded, <u>the LORD caused</u> the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. The army fled to Beth Shittah toward Zererah as far as the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath. As you know, God could have done this any time He wanted. But, as you can see, He didn't do it until His people put their trust in Him and obeyed His instructions. He wants a relationship with you and your friends; that is what He is waiting on.

Jesus, help me make this transition from being concerned with the problems of life to seeing that I am the problem. Help me see things from Your perspective and not from the way us humans see them. Help my friends and I embrace the way You want to do things, so we can start getting the kinds of supernatural results that only You can provide. I have always wanted You and Your provisions. But, I couldn't seem to find out how to go about getting them. Help me align with You, so I can protect my friends by living Your principles.

Judg 7:23 (NIV) Israelites from Naphtali, Asher and all Manasseh were called out, and they pursued the Midianites. These were the people that God couldn't initially use during the main spiritual assignment. They weren't able to have faith and be obedient until they could see what God was doing. Their faith wasn't in God; it was in what they could see with their own eyes. When things started looking like they were going their way, then they were willing to join God and go fight the battle.

Jesus, help me be like Gideon and the three-hundred men. Help me walk in faith and obedience, when I can't see any possible way for things to turn out good. Help my faith in You be so strong that it doesn't matter how things look or feel. Let me believe, trust, rely, and have faith in You before You work the miracle. Help me see that I can be a powerful protector, by giving my life over to this way of living. Help me find those people who are like the three-hundred men, so we can inspire those who live by sight.

Judg 7:24 (NIV) Gideon sent messengers throughout the hill country of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against the Midianites and seize the waters of the Jordan ahead of them as far as Beth Barah." So all the men of Ephraim were called out and they took the waters of the Jordan as far as Beth Barah. Things went from emanant doom and destruction to a mighty move of God, once God found a person like Gideon. If you will give your whole life over to God, He will help turn these inactive people into an army.

Jesus, I can see that Gideon had to allow You to change his schedule, his priorities, his faith, and his life. Things would never go back to the way they were for him. But, help me see that it wasn't a major sacrifice. This army was going to devastate the whole nation with killing, rape, pillage, destruction, torcher, and slavery for the few they didn't kill. Help me understand that Satan has the same plan for this world. I am not making some great sacrifice; You are empowering me to bring a mighty move of deliverance into this world.

Judg 7:25 (NIV) They also captured two of the Midianite leaders, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued the Midianites and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon, who was by the Jordan. There are people that Satan has turned into major instigators of evil. They teach, lead, organize, and assign people to spread sin and spiritual perversion into society. When they are taken down by God, it sets many people free from their leadership.

Jesus, as I read the Gospels, I see You taking the leadership of evil people away from them. Help me reveal the sin, lies, deceptions, and false doctrines to those who are leading people away from You. Many present themselves as being Christian leaders. But, whether they are in business, education, government, or entertainment, help me commit myself to You, so You can use me and my friends to bring them and their influence down. Help us fight this battle with the same success as Gideon was able to do.

You Didn't Protect Us The Right Way

Judg 8:1 (NIV) Now the Ephraimites asked Gideon, "Why have you treated us like this? Why didn't you call us when you went to fight Midian?" And they criticized him sharply. Can you believe it? God used Gideon to keep the Ephraimites from being killed, tortured, raped, molested, pillaged, mutilated, and enslaved, and they were mad because he didn't do it the way they thought he should. Don't expect everyone to be able to see how powerful and loving your protection is.

Eph 6:7 (NIV) Serve wholeheartedly, <u>as if you were serving the Lord, not men</u>. Jesus, help me see that I will end up with my feelings hurt, if I don't pray and let You put this principle in my life. Help me protect through love and not to be seen, appreciated, and accepted by people. Help me do everything I do because I love these people; but, help me only expect to be loved back by You. If they do appreciate it, help me thank them and then take that appreciation they ministered to me with and give all the praise to You.

Judg 8:2 (NIV) But he answered them, "What have I accomplished compared to you? Aren't the gleanings of Ephraim's grapes better than the full grape harvest of Abiezer? Gideon didn't argue, defend himself, or put the blame on them. He just humbled himself before them and pointed to the accomplishments and strengths he saw in them. Jesus will give you all the encouragement and love you need. Spend your time pointing out the good things you see in those around you.

Jesus, help me not try to defend myself, prove other people wrong, or consider myself better than others. Help me get my esteem and confidence in You, so I won't need any emotional support from people. Help me know that it isn't me that they need to respect; it is You. Help me remember that, if I don't keep my mind off of what others think of me, I won't be able to present how much You can help them. Help me be a peacemaker, so people can see You through my behavior, attitudes, and character.

Judg 8:3 (NIV) God gave Oreb and Zeeb, the Midianite leaders, into your hands. What was I able to do compared to you?" At this, their resentment against him subsided. Even though it was God that didn't have Gideon call on them, he didn't point that out. Instead, he pointed out that God was able to use them, once they could see that the battle was going their way. It is vital to build on the foundation of what God has already done in a person's life. He may be using you in a much more mature level; but, love only points out what God wants to do to bless them now.

Jesus, the only reason You are able to use me as a protector is because You have changed and transformed me. Like Gideon, I started out with doubts, wounds, confusion, and hopelessness. I am where I am because You did what You did. Help me never forget that I would still be where I was or worse, if You hadn't entered into my life. Help me not take credit for anything good in my life. Help me not feel superior to anyone. Help me love them enough to point out their potential, so they will come to You.

Chapter Nine

Don't Stop!

Judg 8:4 (NIV) Gideon and his three hundred men, <u>exhausted yet keeping up the pursuit</u>, came to the Jordan and crossed it. If Jesus uses you to gain a great victory in a person's life, keep helping them until they get their full armor on and know how to use it. If Jesus uses you to help a person become extremely successful in using their full armor, help them learn how to start using it to protect others. If Jesus helps you get all your friends protecting others, find new people to protect. Stay in the ministry; don't retire.

Mat 28:19-20 (NIV) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and <u>teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you</u>. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Jesus, even when I am **exhausted** help me **keep up the pursuit.** These people had a lot to be excited about. It would have been easy for them to let exhaustion cause them to feel like they had done enough. Help me not stop until they are taught **to obey everything** You **have commanded** me.

Judg 8:5 (NIV) He said to the men of Succoth, "Give my troops some bread; they are worn out, and I am still pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian." It is vital to get as many people helping with protecting your people. But, not everyone will be qualified for the job. Just because they wrote a book, pastor a church, or have a degree doesn't automatically make them qualified. If they don't love these people, they will abandon them, when the wolves come.

Jesus, help me give a love-test to those I think might help me with those I am protecting. Gideon was asking for some simple help with food. He wasn't asking them to join them in the battle. Help me not just base my decisions on how people look, what positions they hold, what accomplishments they have in the past, or what I think they can do. Help me come to You, so You can give me guidance on how to test their love. Show me that love is more important than any accomplishments or exhibitions of spiritual-power.

Judg 8:6 (NIV) But the officials of Succoth said, "Do you already have the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna in your possession? Why should we give bread to your troops?" Some people are selfish, even though they are holding a great spiritual position of leadership. Some people have incredible resources, but have no intention of sharing them. Some people have great Bible knowledge, but aren't practicing what they preach. It isn't what people have that should impress you, it is what they are willing to give and why they give it.

Jesus, You spent some quality time describing the difference between the true shepherd and the hired hands. You made the willingness to lay down my life for the sheep a major issue. That is what You did with Your body; and, that is what You want to do with my body. Even though my cross isn't the same as Yours, You still want me to expend my life for the sheep. If I and those I solicit to help don't have that kind of love, then I am turning my friends over to a hired hand or a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Judg 8:7 (NIV) Then Gideon replied, "Just for that, when the LORD has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I will tear your flesh with desert thorns and briers." Just because Gideon was fighting a physical battle and you are fighting a spiritual one, doesn't change the procedures. Gideon is in the Bible to show the parallels between the physical and the spiritual. When someone doesn't have the spiritual behavior they should, others need to be warned about them. You must strip their influence from them.

2 Tim 4:14-15 (NIV) Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. <u>You too should be on your guard against him</u>, because he strongly opposed our message. Jesus, help me see that this isn't judging or gossiping. This is what You did to the teachers of the law and the Pharisees. You stripped their influence away from them, so they wouldn't be trusted by the sincere. Help me be willing to go against those You want their reputation removed from them.

Judg 8:8-9 (NIV) From there he went up to Peniel and made the same request of them, but they answered as the men of Succoth had. So he said to the men of Peniel, "When I return in triumph, I will tear down this tower." You will probably find more who won't take a chance with you to trust God. These people wanted their enemies to already be destroyed before they would join Gideon. Those who are unwilling to take a stand for Jesus until He is popular, aren't the ones you need to join you.

Mark 8:38 (NIV) If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels. Jesus, help me see that it isn't just those who oppose You, it is also those who are ashamed of You. Help me provide those to help me with protecting others that are bold about Who You are. Help me see that their attitude would contaminate my friends, who are to be unashamed of You and Your words.

Nothing Has Changed

Judg 8:10 (NIV) Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor with a force of about fifteen thousand men, all that were left of the armies of the eastern peoples; a hundred and twenty thousand swordsmen had fallen. Gideon still only had three-hundred men. But, even if the enemy army had been down to twenty, Gideon still needed the supernatural power of God. Be sure to pray and ask Jesus to protect you from trusting Him for the big things and then leaving Him, as you take care of the little things.

Jesus, help me always consult You and invite You into everything I do. Help me not undertake protecting my friends and assume that the way You dealt with me is the way You will deal with them. Help me see that there can be a lot of differences between them and me. And, help me not assume that the way You taught me the truths of Your Word are the same system to be use with them. Help me be totally submitted to who, when, where, why, how, and what.

The Israel in Joshua's time had just defeated a powerful, very protected, and walled city of Jericho. Their next assignment was to defeat Ai, a small, unwalled city that should be no problem defeating. So, who needs God's help or advice, right?

Josh 7:4-5 (NIV) So about three thousand men went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted and became like water.

Josh 7:1 (NIV) But the Israelites acted unfaithfully in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the Lord's anger burned against Israel. Jesus, help me understand that by not consulting You, these men went to battle with sin in their own camp. Help me realize that in the spirit realm, things operate on a different level. Just because I can go on about my life with sin in it, doesn't mean that works that way with You.

Judg 8:11 (NIV) Gideon went up by the route of the nomads east of Nobah and Jogbehah and fell upon the unsuspecting army. Gideon is still listening to God. The enemy army still has **a force of about fifteen thousand men.** So, Gideon doesn't attack them head on. He doesn't want anyone to die. He loves every one of them and devotes his strategies to God's wisdom. With love, no one is expendable. Your one friend is important, even if you have hundreds of others.

Jesus, because I love my friends, help me not forget to consult You. You see each person as being very important. You teach me to leave the ninety-nine in a protected place and go out and find one that is lost. You know how many hairs are on my friends and my head. You don't love groups; You love each individual person. Help me not get so busy working with a group that I neglect each person in that group and any outside of that group that need help.

Judg 8:12 (NIV) Zebah and Zalmunna, the two kings of Midian, fled, but he pursued them and captured them, routing their entire army. Do you notice the wording here? It sounds like Gideon beat **fifteen thousand men** all by himself. This is the way God looks at a person who is totally devoted to Him. If you lead a group, using the love of God, you and that group are one in love, heart, mind, and purpose. No one is representing themselves. This is the *only* way you can win in the spirit realm.

Jesus, even if You are using me and using my name to identify a group, help me see myself and them as belonging to You. Help me see that Gideon is leading; but, He is leading by total submission to You. The only reason these people are safe is because there is no pride, selfishness, or sin in Gideon. Help me stay before You with my attitudes and character. Help me understand that, as a protector, my most important assignment is to allow You to purify my heart constantly.

Chapter Ten

Finish The Job

Judg 8:13 (NIV) Gideon son of Joash then returned from the battle by the Pass of Heres. You can decide you have finished with someone. The person can look like they are ready to be on their own. But, don't allow your work with new Christians be at the expense of checking on how things are going with the mature ones. Paul wrote two important letters to Timothy. And, there was **no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare (phil 2:20).**

Jesus, help me keep all those in my prayers that You have assigned me to protect. Help me realize that the older ones may seem to be able to work alone. But, show me that they go through struggles too. Help me let them know I care about them just as much now, as I did when they needed a lot of attention. Help me not give them the impression that I think they should be farther along. But, also help me not act like they are too advanced for me to help.

1 Cor 4:15 (NIV) Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. This is Paul's attitude toward those he helped and protected. He wrote out many prayers he prayed for them; he wrote them letters; he went back and visited them; he sent Timothy to work with them; and he made sure they had leaders to watch over them.

Acts 20:29 (NIV) I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Jesus, help me do what it takes to finish the job. You told me that **savage wolves will come in among** us. Help me prepare and protect Your people; and, help me do what it takes to deal with as many wolves as is possible. Show me that it wasn't because of revenge that Gideon did this. It was because of the evil that was resident in the leaders of those cities. Their evil would continue to spread, if not dealt with.

Judg 8:14 (NIV) He (Gideon) caught a young man of Succoth and questioned him, and the young man wrote down for him the names of the seventy-seven officials of Succoth, the elders of the town. It is vital that you not confuse followers with leaders. Some followers may be just as evil as their leaders, but not all are. As you separate the influence of the leaders from the followers, evil followers will try to take the leader's places. But, innocent followers will see the evil and accept the separation.

Jesus, help me expose evil people for what they are, so innocent people will be able to break away from them. But, help me do what I do with love. Help me say neutral, as I expose the evil in people. Help me understand that not all who are doing evil will stay evil, if given a message of deliverance. Help me understand that I am not the judge. I am just accepting the responsibility of protecting the innocent from the evil. If evil people will repent, then a wonderful work will have been done to show Your grace and mercy.

Judg 8:15 (NIV) Then Gideon came and said to the men of Succoth, "Here are Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom you taunted me by saying, 'Do you already have the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna in your possession? Why should we give bread to your exhausted men?'" If Jesus instructs you to deal with the evil in people, be sure to remind them of the evil they have done. These are people who are not beyond help. They only get punished for their evil--not killed. God still considers them to be teachable and capable of repenting.

Jesus, even though You don't have me dealing in the physical like You were with Gideon, help me see the principles here. There will be people that I and my friends should totally reject. And, there are people that we should do everything possible to salvage. Help me stay under Your control in such a delicate and sensitive issue. Help me always keep in mind that I am dealing with people's eternal destiny. Help me only do what I do with love. I am not the judge; I am not perfect; and I can only do what You want done.

Judg 8:16 (NIV) He took the elders of the town and taught the men of Succoth a lesson by punishing them with desert thorns and briers. In the spirit realm, this is like the process of dealing with a Christian leader that needs to be awakened to their careless attitude toward the things of God. Rather than physical punishment, Jesus has established spiritual procedures for spiritual leaders. But, those who get involved in such procedures must pray that they are where they need to be with God.

1 Tim 5:19-20 (NIV) Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning. Jesus, help me see that You have things in place for spiritual failure. However, I can see that the system in the Old Testament was much more physical. Teach me how to see the reasons for the punishments in the Old Testament, so I can apply the spiritual procedures from the New Testament.

Judg 8:17 (NIV) He also pulled down the tower of Peniel and killed the men of the town. In the Old Testament, if someone or some group are incorrigible and pose a major spiritual threat to other, spiritually important people, their fate is death. If God feels they would have an opportunity to influence innocent people and thwart their God-given free will on an eternal level, He typically will kill or have them killed. God protects innocent people's God-given free will with great care. In the New Testament, this is typically reserved for God, except in the case of war.

2 Cor 10:4 (NIV) The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. Jesus, help me understand this criterion and apply it to the spirit realm. Even though I am not dealing with beings that can be killed, help me see that I still have a protection responsibility to those innocent people who could be misled on an eternal level. Help me cast out demons, resist the devil and make him flee (James 4:7), keep demon possessed people from speaking (Mark 1:34), and demolish satanic strongholds.

Conclusion

This is the four books in **The Protector Series**, all deal with protecting those who can't protect themselves. They not only help you be a protector; they can train your friends to be protectors. But, first they need help learning how to get protection for themselves.

Jesus can use **The Prevention Series** to help you teach your friends how to put on, keep on, and use the full armor of God, so they can protect themselves. If they haven't gone through that series, it would be good for Jesus and you to take them through it.

A Prayer For You To Always Pray For Yourself And Others
Jesus' people are praying Ephesians 1:17-23 for you. It contains such vital requests before God that it has been converted into a prayer for you and those around you. As others pray it for you, please join them by praying this modified prayer for yourself and your friends.

I *keep asking* that the God of my Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may *give me* the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, *so that* I may know Him better.

I pray also that the eyes of my heart may be enlightened *in order that* I may know the hope to which He has called me, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for me, who believes. Jesus, help me see, know, and understand the hope, the riches, and this power.

That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills everything in every way. Jesus, I ask that I would receive a full revelation and vision into all this power that is available to me; and, I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

It would be good for you to pray this prayer for yourself and those around you regularly.