



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** Exhausted Yet Still Pursuing

**SPEAKER** DSP Edric Sng

**THEME** Sufficiency in God

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Sometimes, we can feel inadequate and fearful when God calls us to a task. When we finally proceed, we are swarmed with troubles and obstacles along the way. This process can be emotionally, mentally and spiritually exhausting, especially when the people we are trusting and counting on for support are the very source of our problems.

In his message from Judges 7:22-8:9, DSP Edric shared about the five things that could exhaust us believers in our journey with God. The key is to identify these things and deal with them instead of letting them exhaust us.

## KEY POINTS

### The Five Things that Exhaust Us

#### 1. Fear and Hesitation (Judges 7:1-21)

Fear is an emotion that could paralyse us. Like Gideon, we are to counter fears with actions. Before the battle, Gideon was afraid. But he acted on God's instruction, and spied on the enemy's camp. He came back encouraged, launched the attack on Midian with trumpets instead of swords, and experienced one of the greatest victories recorded in the bible. Like Gideon, we should not let our fears stop us from God's work. For if God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31). By faith, we take the next step and let God guide us through the process.

#### 2. Pride and Offence (Judges 7:22-8:3)

At the sound of the trumpets, God miraculously caused the Midianite army to kill each other, and their kings and princes fled in terror. With help from the men of Naphtali, Asher and Manasseh, Gideon and his men pursued the Midianite leaders, who had fled southward towards the land of Ephraim. Gideon then enlisted the help of the men of Ephraim, who eventually captured and killed the two Midianite princes, Oreb and Zeeb. The men of Ephraim responded to Gideon's call for help. But they resented at not being involved from the start. Their actions revealed the underlying pride issue in their hearts. However, Gideon did not take offence at their attitude as he was focused on finishing the task that God had given him. Like Gideon, we must stay focused on our God-given assignment, otherwise it is possible that we may be distracted by pride and offences while dealing with people.

### **3. Envy and Comparison**

The men of Ephraim seemed to care more about recognition than anything else. Gideon wisely responded by praising them for their role in killing the Midianite princes. This soothed their pride and gave them the recognition they seemed to crave. The lesson for us is that in the course of doing God's work, we must watch out for pride in our heart. Instead of competing and comparing with one another for our own glory, let us be working for God's glory.

### **4. Spiritual Naivety**

Gideon and his men knew they were outnumbered, but they also knew that God was with them. Hence, even though they were exhausted, they were able to keep on pursuing the enemy. Similarly, when God calls us for His work, He will prepare and back us up. But the preparation process may include trials and temptations, where our faith is stretched and tested (James 1:12, 1 Cor 9:25). To expect otherwise is spiritual naivety. Hence, if you are on a God-given assignment and are facing challenges, do not give up. Press on and know that God will back you up for His glory.

### **5. Discouragement (Judges 8:4-9)**

Across the Jordan and still pursuing the two Midianite kings, Gideon asked his fellow Israelites at Succoth and Penuel for some bread to feed his men. They refused him bread and scoffed at him. The people were simply not appreciative of his efforts for the nation. This happens even in today's church, where members are not supportive, and cause discouragement for their cell and ministry leaders. Let everything we say be good and helpful, so that our words will be an encouragement to those who hear them (Ephesians 4:29).

## **CONCLUSION**

The above story ends with Gideon successfully capturing the two Midianite kings for the glory of God (Judges 8:12). However, it must have been tough for Gideon who was trying to deliver his own countrymen, yet be scoffed by them.

The five things that exhaust us affect all believers in the body of Christ, be it leaders or members. We must exercise faith instead of fear, be watchful of pride, and encourage one another through our words and deeds. By doing so, we will strengthen each other and our church.

# QUESTIONS

1. Read Judges 7:1-21. Why did God only allow Gideon to take three hundred men to the battle against Midian? Was Gideon's fears justified? What do you learn about God in the way He prepared Gideon for the eventual battle?

2. Under what circumstances do you see people behave like the men of Ephraim, Succoth and Penuel in your work place, family, cell group, church? What was their attitude like? What is a likely common trait among them?

3. What is God challenging you to obey or step into, that you are still trying to understand or figure out? What do you need to surrender to Him today?