

**Theme:** Weakness is not something we generally pursue. But it is in our weakness that we are driven to trust and rest in the power of the Lord. God does not work in spite of our weaknesses but through them – all for his glory.

**Background:** Gideon enters the second battle, now he must deal with the Midianites.

**Introduction:** I have to tell you something you aren't going to like. We like to boast, whether we know it or not.

## **I. No Place for Boasting (1-8)**

First Lesson: We must see God as our true deliverer. Our “weakness” will reveal this truth.

### A. Gideon raises an army

1. The setting
2. The response to the call
3. The enemy

### B. If you're afraid?

1. Permission to run
  - Who will admit it? Let them leave.
  - 22,000 leave! (Counting the cost – Luke 14:31,32)
2. 10,000 brave men

### B. Too many soldiers–

1. Divine division
  - Lapping vs. kneeling leaves a scant 300
2. For divine glory
  - How much help does God need to save? (2 Chronicles 32:21; cf. Isaiah 37:36)
  - Back to verse 2! God will ....”give the Midianites into your hand”

Application: The sinful nature seeks its own glory. Admitting weakness, welcoming weakness is foreign to us.

## **II. Weakness By Design**

Second Lesson: It is not our strength that God uses to reveal himself or save; He uses our “weakness.”

### A. This is a pattern – God using what the world calls weakness?

1. A quick review of Gideon
2. A quick review of ourselves
  - What child is born ready to care for themselves??
  - How many of us will die without needing others to care for us?
3. Weakness should drive us to Jesus

B. It is a principle

Third Lesson: We were never made to stand all on our own.

1. God works in our weakness – not in spite of it.  
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-9
2. In our weakness we can find salvation
  - a. In humbling ourselves before God
  - b. In confessing our “weakness“ in sin

C. The assurance

1. For Gideon
  - a. I am with you! (9)
  - b. Go down to the camp??
  - c. The enemy’s fear
    - The loaf of barley
    - The soldiers’ dream and interpretation
2. Gideon’s worship
  - The right response to God’s power

NOTE: If worship doesn’t motivate you or flow from you – you need to see how weak you really are and how great God really is.

**III. The Battle Is The Lord’s**

NOTE: Weakness doesn’t mean we don’t plan, prepare, count the cost.

A. The plan

- A great strategy

B. The warrior

1. The Lord gives Midian into their hands (2)
2. Israel *stood* as Midian *ran* (21)

C. The victory

1. No escape
2. A fitting end (25)

**Conclusion:** We will surely face enemies and trials that are greater, stronger, better equipped than we are. But no challenge or enemy will be greater, stronger or more powerful than the God who calls us to walk with him. To God Be The Glory!