

# Judges 7:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host:

## Analysis

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God knows Gideon still harbors fear: 'But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host.' This gracious accommodation reveals God's perfect knowledge of human hearts and His patience with weakness. Rather than rebuking Gideon's lingering fear or demanding blind obedience, God provides a way to strengthen Gideon's courage through reconnaissance. The offer to take Phurah (his servant and presumably trusted companion) shows God's understanding that human courage often requires fellowship support.

## Historical Context

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Reconnaissance before major operations was standard military practice. Leaders personally observing enemy camps assessed troop strength, morale, defensive preparations, and potential weaknesses. Spies regularly infiltrated enemy camps before battles throughout biblical narratives (Joshua 2, Judges 1:23-24). Taking a trusted servant rather than going alone provided security and corroboration of intelligence gathered.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

1. How does God's permission to reconnoiter before attacking demonstrate His grace toward fearful believers?
2. What does God providing Phurah as companion teach about Christian fellowship's role in building courage for difficult obedience?
3. When is admitting fear and taking intermediate steps toward obedience better than pretending false confidence?

## Interlinear Text

אָמַר	אֵיךְ	יְהִי	אָמַר	הִנֵּה	אָמַר	הִנֵּה	אָמַר	הִנֵּה	וְאָמַר
H518	<b>But if thou fear</b>	H859	<b>down</b>	<b>down</b>	H859	<b>thou with Phurah</b>			
	H3373		H3381	H3381					H6513

עֶבֶד נָעָר בָּאָל כְּפָמָנָה:

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