

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

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

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

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

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|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|-------------------------|
| וְאִם | יִרָא | אֶתְּ הַ | יֵד דַּ | יֵד דַּ | אֶתְּ הַ | וּפִיךָ הַ |
| H518 | But if thou fear | H859 | down | down | H859 | thou with Phurah |
| | H3373 | | H3381 | H3381 | | H6513 |
| | | | | | | |
| נַעֲרֶיךָ | אֵל | הַמַּחֲנֶה: | | | | |
| thy servant | H413 | to the host | | | | |
| H5288 | | H4264 | | | | |