

The Book of JUDGES

INTO battle, on to victory, Judah shall first go;
On to a king who has taken seventy and cut off their thumbs and toes;
On to giants and from giants, on to conquer more and more;
Into nations you failed to drive out, who would become your snares therefore.

JUDGES I

¹After the death of Joshua, the children of Israel asked the Lord, saying, "Who shall first go up for us to fight against the Canaanites?"

²And the Lord said, "Judah shall first go up. I have delivered the land into his hand."

³So Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me to my allotment, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I will go up with you to your allotment."

And so Simeon went up with Judah.

⁴Into battle, on to victory; Judah went up, and the Lord delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand that day; and they killed ten thousand men at Bezek.

⁵And they found Adoni-bezek in Bezek, and against him they fought; and they defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites.

⁶Adoni-bezek fled, and they pursued him and caught him. and they cut off his thumbs and his big toes.

⁷And Adoni-bezek said, "Seventy kings having their thumbs and big toes cut off have gathered meat under my table; as I have done, God has repaid me likewise."

And they brought him to Jerusalem and there Adoni-bezek died.

⁸And the children of Judah fought against Jerusalem and took it.

They defeated it with the sword and set the city on fire.

⁹Afterwards the children of Judah fought against the Canaanites who dwelt in the mountain, in the South, and in the valley.

¹⁰Then Judah fought against the Canaanites in Hebron. (Now Hebron was named Kirjath-arba before).

And they killed Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmi.

¹¹Then they went and fought against the inhabitants of Debir. (The name of Debir was previously Kirjath-sepher.)

¹²And Caleb said, "To the man who fights against Kirjath-sepher and takes it, I will give my daughter Achsah to be his wife."

¹³And Othneil son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother took it; so he gave him his daughter Achsah as his wife.

¹⁴And when she came to him, she persuaded him to ask her father for a field.

And as she came down from her donkey, Caleb said to her, "What do you desire?"

¹⁵So she said to him, "Give me a blessing. You have given me land in the South, give me springs of water also."

And Caleb gave to her the upper and lower springs.

¹⁶Then the children of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up from the City of Palm Trees into the Wilderness of Judah, which is South, near Arad;

and there they dwelt among the people.

¹⁷And Judah went with his brother Simeon, and they defeated the Canaanites of Zephath, and destroyed it totally.

So the name of the city was called Hormah.

¹⁸Then Judah took Gaza and its territory, Ashkelon with its territory, and Ekron with its territory.

¹⁹And the Lord was with Judah. They drove out the inhabitants of the mountain, but they could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley for they had chariots of iron.

²⁰And they gave Caleb Hebron, as Moses had said.

And from there he expelled the three sons of Anak.

²¹And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who dwelt at Jerusalem. So they dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

²²And the house of Joseph also went up against Bethel, and the Lord was with them.

²³And the house of Joseph sent men to spy out Bethel; (the name of the city was Luz previously.)

²⁴And the spies saw a man coming out of the city, and they said to him,

"Show us the entrance of the city and we will show you mercy for this thing."

²⁵So he showed them the entrance to the city, and they defeated the city with the sword, but they released the man and his family and let them go.

²⁶And the man went to the land of the Hittites, and there he built a city,

and he called the name of the city Luz, which is its name to this day.

²⁷And Manasseh did not drive out the inhabit-

ants of Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or of Dor, Ibleam, or Megiddo and their villages, for the Canaanites were determined to dwell in the land.

²⁸And so, when Israel was strong, they put the Canaanites to tribute and did not utterly drive them out.

²⁹And Ephraim did not drive out the inhabitants of Gezer; so the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them. ³⁰Nor did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor of Nahalol; so the Canaanites dwelt among them, and were put to tribute.

³¹Neither did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Acco, Sidon, Ahlab and Achzib, Helbah, Aphik and Rehob.

³²So the children of Asher lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land; for they did not drive them out.

³³Nor did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath;

but they dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land.

However, the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and of Beth-anath were put to tributes.

³⁴And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountains, and would not allow them to come down into the valley.

³⁵And the Amorites still dwelt in Mount Heres, which is in Aijalon, and also in Shaalbim, yet the house of Joseph became stronger and they put them to tributes.

³⁶Now the borders of the Amorites were from the Ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela, and upwards.

@On to battles, unto conquest, but beware of complacency.

On to being satisfied with just enough and perhaps with tributes.

Into battles, unto victories, unto strength that had increased,

but unless you do all God has commanded, you have not moved on to lasting peace.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *When you see your giants as grasshoppers before your God, then you will drive them out of your inheritance like Caleb. When you see yourself as grasshoppers before your giants they will drive you out and restrict you like Dan.*
2. *If you put your thumbs up, while you place your toes down on others who are at your mercy, you may lose your thumbs and toes.*
3. *When the enemy causes you(kings) to lose balance or fight, he twists you around his finger or makes you feed as dogs under his table; resist him in the name of the King of kings.*
4. *You have received it by divine decree, fight for it with defined determination until you claim it all.*
5. *If you do not drive them out, they will drive you out or cause you to out-drive and drive out yourself by serving their gods.*
6. *There are no friendly enemies, just enemies pre-*

tending to be friends.

7. *If you shift from God's position regarding sinners, you set up opposition to His promises to you.*
8. *It is to your disadvantage when you compromise the word of God for advantage or tributes.*
9. *It is not for your enemies to determine your limits, your limitations, and your boundaries in your God given inheritance, but instead for you to drive them out.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O God my Father, help me to possess all my possession in You, in the name of Jesus.
- In the mighty name of Jesus Christ, my Lord, I rise in the spirit of Caleb and drive out every giant, every son of Anak, militating in my inheritance. Amen.
- I will not cohabit with sinners, destiny-stealers, or devil worshippers because of advantage, sympathy or benefits, in the powerful name of Jesus Christ.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, I declare that the enemy shall not cause me to lose balance or fight, in Jesus name. Amen.

THOSE thorns in your sides may just be proving you

If you will walk in His way;

Altars not torn down will test and prove and show,

If you will bow or live in victory.

How can you not know the Lord

After the mighty things He has done?

If your fathers did not impress it,

Why not give heed to the judge?

Will you hear the many curses?

When the tears come to your eyes,

You will see the gods you worship

Are just thorns in your sides.

JUDGES 2

¹He came up from Gilgal to Bochim; it was the Angel of the Lord.

He said, "I led you up from Egypt and brought you to this land that I have sworn to your fathers to give it to them; and I said, 'I will never break My covenant with you.

²And you shall make no league with the inhabitants of the land; you shall throw their altars down.'

But you have not obeyed My voice.

Tell me why have you done this thing?"

³Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you;

but they shall be thorns in your side, and their god shall be a snare to you."

⁴He spoke to them in earnest, amidst all Israel's tear-filled eyes.

For when the Angel of the Lord spoke these words to the children of Israel, the people wept with lifted voices.

⁵Then they named the place Bochim, and they sacrificed there to the Lord.

⁶And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went to their own inheri-

tance to possess the land.

⁷So the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived him,

who had seen all the mighty works the Lord had done for Israel.

⁸And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of one hundred and ten years.

⁹And they buried him within his inheritance at Timnath-heres, in Mount Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.

¹⁰And when all that generation died, another generation replaced them who did not know the Lord nor the work He had done for Israel.

The elders did not pass it on to them?

¹¹And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baal;

¹²and they forsook the Lord God of their fathers who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people all around them; and they bowed down to them and they provoked the Lord to anger.

¹³They forsook the Lord and served Baal and Ashtoreths.

¹⁴And the anger of the Lord burned against Israel.

So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who plundered them; and He sold them into the hands of the enemies all around, they could no longer stand before their enemies.

¹⁵Wherever they went, the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, calamity followed them, just as the Lord had said and just as the Lord had sworn to them. They were extremely distressed.

They were thorns in their sides but to remove the pain,

¹⁶the Lord raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them.

¹⁷Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they prostituted themselves with other gods, and bowed down to serve them.

They turned quickly from the way their fathers walked, in obeying the Lord's commands.

¹⁸And when the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge and delivered them from their enemies all the days the judge lived;

for the Lord was moved by their groans because of those who oppressed and tormented them.

¹⁹And so it was, when the judge was dead, they regressed and behaved more corruptly than their fathers,

in following other gods to serve them and bow down to them.

They did not desist from their evil lust and their own wicked way.

²⁰And they provoked the Lord to anger and He said,

"Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has disdained My voice,

²¹"I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left when he died,

²²"so that through them I may test Israel, to see whether they will keep the ways of the Lord, to walk in them, as their fathers rejected them."

²³And so the Lord left those nations, and did not immediately drive them out;

nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *If your eyes are on man you will move when they move, if your eyes are on your God nothing moves you for He never moves.*
2. *God is taking your measurement based on your adherence to His commandments.*
3. *The problem you love and fraternize with will become your problem; the sin you love and test God with will become your test from God. God will allow you to select your test paper.*
4. *When you submit your strength to the enemy, you will lose your strength to the enemy and with it everything you value.*
5. *Separate yourself from sinners to separate yourself from their sin, or it will separate you from your God and make you sinners just as they are.*
6. *Separate yourself from sinners to separate yourself from their judgment.*
7. *When sin becomes easy and righteousness onerous you have a problem, you will revert to easy when your supervisor, mentor, or judge is absent. Make righteousness easy and sin onerous.*
8. *Your power to drive out, to conquer and to possess is in disassociation; your enemies will conquer you and drive you out by association.*
9. *A good soldier never entangles himself with the enemy; it defeats his mission; kingdom ambassadors never entangle with the affairs of this world.*
10. *When you embrace the thing you were deployed to destroy your mission loses its focus and heaven shifts its ire to you.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O God my Father, help me to keep my eyes on You, even when my world is shaking, in the name of Jesus.
- I declare, by the power in the name of Jesus Christ, I will have no alliance, friendship, fraternity, contract, or business association with sin, in the name of Jesus.
- Father, help me never to surrender my strength to the things that weaken me, but to surrender my weaknesses to Your Son who died to strengthen me. Amen.
- I declare that I shall keep my eyes on God, in His word and on His laws and never be distracted by secular role models, in the name of Jesus.

- Lord God of Abraham, give me an ear to listen, and a heart tender for Your word, Your directives and Your corrections, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**THE war of the flesh
Will cause distress and shame to come;
Othniel won the battle,
But for Israel war was on.
Israel battled with the flesh,
And Ehud fought, he won, he tried;
But you cannot have true victory
Until the flesh has died.**

JUDGES 3

¹These are the nations the Lord left, that by them He may test Israel, that is, those who had not known the wars of Canaan,

²(this was so that the generations of the children of Israel would experience war by them. These nations were left in the land, for the experience of those who had not known war before;)

but another battle was on, the war of the flesh.

³These nations were: five lords of the Philistine, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who lived in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-hermon to the entrance of Hamath.

⁴They were left, that by them He may test Israel, to see whether they would obey His commandments, which He commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

⁵And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites. *And their internal battle with the flesh began in intensity.*

They were to have no union with them but be separate and be holy.

⁶But instead, they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons likewise.

And so a battle raged in Israel, the gods of these nations to disown.

And Israel lost the battle; to their gods they bowed down.

⁷So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord.

They forsook the Lord their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs.

⁸Therefore the anger of the Lord became intense against Israel, and He delivered them to Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia; and the children of Israel served him for eight years.

⁹When the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for them, and he

delivered them.

He was Othneil the son of Kenaz, the younger brother to Caleb.

¹⁰The Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel.

He went out to war and the Lord delivered Cushan-Rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia, into his hand; and he defeated him.

¹¹So the land had rest for forty years until Othniel the son of Kenaz died; *and with the flesh Israel battled, their struggles revived.*

¹²And once more the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord.

So the Lord strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in His sight.

¹³He gathered with him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and fought and defeated Israel, and took from them the city of the palm trees, for Israel forsook their hope on high.

For yielding to fleshly desires is to yield to deception and lies.

¹⁴Israel served Eglon, king of Moab, eighteen years, and they cried.

¹⁵And when the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for them:

Ehud, the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man who was left-handed.

By him the children of Israel sent a tribute to Eglon, Moab's king.

¹⁶And Ehud made a dagger with two edges, a cubit in length; and he secured it on his right thigh, under his clothes.

¹⁷So he brought the tribute to Eglon king of Moab.

(Now Eglon was a very fat man all around.)

¹⁸When he finished offering the tribute, he sent away all the people who carried it;

¹⁹but he turned back from the stone idols that were at Gilgal, and said, "O king, I have a secret message for you."

And the king said, "Keep silence." And all his attendants went out from his presence.

²⁰So Ehud came to him; (he was in a summer parlour upstairs).

Then Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you."

So the king arose from his seat.

²¹Then Ehud used his left hand to take the dagger from his right thigh, and he thrust the dagger into Eglon's belly.

²²Even the handle went in with the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not draw the dagger out, and the internal organs came out then.

Eglon could not draw it out, though he warred against his mass of flesh.

²³Then Ehud went out through the porch and shut the doors of the parlour behind him and locked them.

²⁴When he had departed, Eglon's servants

came, and they saw the doors of the parlor locked, so they said, "He is probably attending to his private needs."

²⁵So they waited until they were ashamed, and still he had not opened the door. Therefore they opened the door with a key; and there they found their master dead on the floor, his flesh in a lifeless heap.

²⁶But Ehud escaped while they delayed, and passed beyond the stone idols and to Seirah he escaped.

²⁷And when he arrived, he blew the trumpet in the mountains of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went with him from the mountains, and he led them.

²⁸He said, "Follow me, for the Lord has delivered your enemy, Moab, into your hand." So they went down after him, and seized the fords of Jordan leading to Moab, and did not allow anyone to cross.

²⁹At that time they killed ten thousand fighting men of Moab, all men of valour; not a man escaped.

³⁰So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years.

³¹After him Shamgar the son of Anath judged Israel.

He killed six hundred Philistines with an ox goad, and he also delivered Israel.

But when war is raging in the flesh, you will need deliverance again and again; for the fighting would continue, beyond temporary respite.

For there is no true victory until the flesh has died.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *If you are fighting recurring battles, recurring grief, recurring problems, and attaining temporary victories, it is a decoy; target your efforts on fighting the besetting sin in your life for lasting victory and complete deliverance.*
2. *Your flesh is standing in the way of your victory; your comfort with flesh is sitting down on your progress.*
3. *Mortify the flesh and its desires; let it be crucified with Christ and rise to your victory.*
4. *The enemy of your flesh may just be the Lord's test of your obedience to Him, and your qualifying exam for His promises and His glory.*
5. *You cannot fight the word of God and win, it is best to use the word of God to fight sin.*
6. *Sin is literal bondage; physical bondage in any area of your life is only a manifestation from within.*
7. *God will raise up people to point you to Him—see Him not the pointers or if becomes pointless. Place Him above, and see Him beyond, the people He uses.*
8. *Your victory is not in the physical external battles you win, but in defeating your internal struggle with sin.*
9. *The enemy will keep coming back in different shapes, sizes and forms if you do not defeat sin in your life; sin attracts them to you.*
10. *Address the root to address the fruit; address*

the fruit and ignore the root and evil fruit keeps springing.

PRAYER POINTS

- O God my Father, let everything within me that cannot reign with You, die now, in the name of Jesus Christ.
- I recover my enduring victory from the hands of the enemy and return to him all his lust and pride, in Jesus' name.
- I declare that I will not surrender my God-given victory to the devil, in the precious name of Jesus Christ. Amen.
- By the Holy Ghost and fire, nothing shall prevent me from claiming the promises of God for my life, or attaining His glory, in the name of Jesus.
- Lord Jesus, I plant myself in the cross from which comes all my victories; I refuse to fight in the flesh. Amen.

THE Lord has given victory;
Go on take up your sword.

The Lord has given victory,

The prophet spoke; you heard.

The Lord has given victory,

But if by His word you are not assured,

The Lord has given victory,

But the honor will not be yours.

JUDGES 4

¹Now when Ehud was dead, the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord.

²So the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor.

His army was led by Sisera, who dwelt in Harosheth Hagoyim.

³And the children of Israel cried out to the Lord;

for Jabin had nine hundred chariots of iron, and for twenty years he greatly oppressed Israel.

⁴Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was the judge of Israel at that time.

⁵She would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim.

And the children of Israel came to her for judgment.

⁶Then she sent and called for Barak, the son of Abinoam, from Kedesh in Naphtali, and she said to him,

"Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded, 'Go and position towards Mount Tabor.

Take with you ten thousand men of the tribes of Naphtali and of Zebulun,

⁷and I will draw Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army with his chariots and his multitude to you at River Kishon;

and I will deliver him into your hand.?"

⁸The Lord has given victory, but Barak was afraid.

He said, "If you go with me, then I will go; but if you will not, I will not go there."

⁹So Deborah said, "I will go with you, however, you will not get the honor from this

battle;
for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hand of a woman.”

The Lord has given victory.

Deborah arose then and went with Barak to Kedesh.

¹⁰And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh.

He went up with ten thousand men in his army and with him was Deborah the prophetess.

¹¹And Heber, the Kenite, of the descendants of Horeb, Moses' father-in-law, had separated himself from the Kenites; he came close to the terebinth tree at Zaanaïm by Kedesh, and there he pitched his tent.

¹²And Sisera was told that Barak the son Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor.

¹³So Sisera gathered together all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth Hagoyim to the River Kishon.

¹⁴And Deborah said to Barak, “Up! For the Lord has delivered Sisera into your hand this very day.

Has not the Lord gone out before you?”

So with ten thousand men following him, Barak went down from Mount Tabor.

¹⁵The Lord discomfited Sisera and all his chariots of iron and all his army with the sword before Barak.

Iron chariots cannot save you, when you do battle against the Lord.

Sisera came down from his chariot and ran away on foot.

¹⁶*The Lord had given victory.*

Barak pursued the army and the chariots as far as Harosheth of the Gentiles; and all the army of Sisera fell by the sword; no one remained alive.

¹⁷But Sisera, the captain, had fled away by foot

to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite; there he sought refuge for there was peace between Jabin king of Hazor, and the house of Heber the Kenite.

¹⁸And Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him,

“Turn in to me, my lord, do not fear.”

And when he had turned aside with her into the tent, she covered him with a blanket.

¹⁹Then he said to her, “Please give me some water; I am thirsty.”

He wanted water; she gave him milk, *so he would rest assured and sleep.*

Then she covered him up, *her tender care was all he would need.*

²⁰And he said to her, “Stand at the door of the tent, and if any man should come near, and inquires of you, and say, ‘Is there any man here?’ Tell him, ‘No, no man is here.’”

²¹He was weary from battle *so in her kindness he found rest.*

He could not see her intent, so he sweetly slept.

Then Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg and a hammer in her hand, and went softly to him, and drove the peg into his temple, and fastened it into the ground. He was tired and sound asleep. So he died.

The Lord has given victory.

²²As Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him. And she said to him,

“Come, let me show you the man you are seeking.”

And when he went into the tent, he saw Sisera there dead.

@The Lord had given victory, but the glory would not be his; it would go to this woman, for he did not believe.

In Sisera's temple was the peg.

²³So on that day God subdued Jabin king of Canaan in the presence of the children of Israel.

²⁴And the hand of the children of Israel prospered and prevailed against Jabin king of Canaan, until he was completely destroyed.

The Lord has given victory, if you will take it, it is yours!

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *The instruction of the Lord carries the anointing for victory, your faith in the Lord determines the appropriation of your victory.*
2. *Never replace the God who spoke the word with the messenger who delivered the word.*
3. *Understand, appreciate and embrace your calling and your strength with God.*
4. *The one who believes it will achieve it, man or woman.*
5. *You will understand that chariots of iron (any modern weaponry) in the greatest number, are no match to a word from God when kings run away from them on foot.*
6. *Major win, major loss; you sold the credit for all your hard work due to lack of faith in yourself and in God.*
7. *The arm of deception that brings you comfort is the arm of death that enfolds you; the arm of deception that puts you to sleep may ensure you never wake up.*
8. *If they fight against God step away from them quickly or their fight becomes your judgment.*
9. *Fight with God; friendship is not casual but must be the first casualty if it opposes your spiritual survival and kingdom assignment.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O Lord God of my strength, help me to understand, appreciate and embrace my strength with You, in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.
- O God my Father, help me to embrace Your unique calling on my life, and let me not be satisfied with anything but complete fulfillment, in the name of Jesus.
- I declare that I shall not surrender the rights of my hard work to any opportunist, in the name of Jesus.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus I claim complete victory; no one will steal the credits; the glory belongs to Jesus. Amen.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, let every

friend or associate who is a threat to the call of God on my life be uprooted and removed now; may their evil influence die. Amen.

**I WILL sing praises to the God of Israel.
I will sing to the Lord.
When He marched the earth trembled;
When He marched the heavens dropped.
I will sing for He avenges.
In the praises of Israel it was done.
I will sing: let all who love Him be as the mighty rising sun.**

JUDGES 5

¹Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying:
²“When leaders lead in Israel, when the people offer themselves willingly, bless the Lord!
³“Hear, O you kings! give ear, O you princes! I, yes even I, will sing to the Lord; I will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel.
⁴“Lord, when you went out from Seir, when you marched from the field of Edom, the earth trembled and the heavens rained, the clouds also poured out water.
⁵“The mountains melted before the Lord, even Sinai, before Israel’s God.
⁶“In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, in the days of Jael it was done. The highways were deserted. Through byways the travellers walked.
⁷“The activities of the villages ceased. It ceased in Israel, until I, Deborah arose, a mother in Israel.
⁸“They chose to them new gods. Then there was war in the gates. Say, was there a shield or spear seen among forty thousand in Israel? Not one!
⁹“My heart is with the rulers of Israel, who gave themselves willingly with the people. Bless the Lord!
¹⁰“*Bless you the Lord, all you masses.* Speak you who ride on white donkeys. You who sit in the seat of judges, and who walk along the passes,
¹¹“and are delivered from the noise of the archers; in the place of drawing water. “There they shall speak of the righteous acts that the Lord has done towards the inhabitants of all Israel. Then the people of the Lord shall go down to the gates.
¹²“Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake and sing a new song! Arise Barak, and lead your captives away, O son of Abinoam!
¹³“Then those who survived came down, the people against the nobles; The Lord has made me have dominion over the mighty.
¹⁴“There came a root of them against Amalek out of Ephraim.

After you Benjamin, with your people. Out of Machir the rulers came, and out of Zebulun those who handle the pen, even the writer’s pen.
¹⁵“The princes of Issachar were with Deborah. As Issachar, so was Barak sent on foot into the valley under his command. Among Reuben there were great resolves of heart.
¹⁶“Why did you sit among the sheepfolds? Is it to hear the bleating of the sheep? Reuben had great searching of the heart.
¹⁷“Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan. Why did Dan remain on ships? Asher continued at the seashore, and stayed by its beaches.
¹⁸“Zebulun and Naphtali placed their lives in jeopardy of death, on the high places of the battlefield.
¹⁹“The kings came and fought. Then the kings of Canaan fought in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo. They took no spoils of money.
²⁰“They fought from the heavens. The stars from their courses fought against Sisera.
²¹“The River Kishon swept them away; the ancient river, the River Kishon. O my soul, you have marched on in strength!
²²“Then the horses’ hoofs pounded that day, by means of their prancing, The prancing of their mighty ones.
²³“The angel of the Lord said, ‘Curse you Meroz; I bitterly curse all your inhabitants.’ ‘For they did not come to help the Lord, to give a hand against the mighty.’
²⁴“Most blessed among women is Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite. She is blessed among women in tents.
²⁵“He asked for water, she gave him milk. She brought him butter in a stately dish.
²⁶“She stretched her hand to the tent peg, her right hand to the workmen’s hammer. She struck Sisera; she pierced his head. She pierced through his temple.
²⁷“At her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay still. At her feet he sank. Where he sank, there he fell down dead.
²⁸“The mother of Sisera looked through the window, and cried out through the lattice, ‘Why is his chariot so long in returning? Why does the clatter of his chariots delay?’
²⁹“Her wise ladies answered her; yes, and she answered herself. *They all consoled themselves.*
³⁰“Are they not sorting and dividing the spoil, to every man a girl or two. For Sisera a garment of many colors and of embroidered work on both sides, fit for the necks of those who take spoil?’
³¹“Even so, let the enemies perish, O Lord! But let those who love Him be as the sun,

rising in its might, when it comes out in full strength.”
So the land had rest for forty years.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *A victory without a praise is like the sun without the rays.*
2. *The depth of your praise should capture the breadth of His goodness, and the height and length of His grace, or at least make an attempt to.*
3. *A glamorous God deserves glamorous acknowledgments; an extraordinary feat deserves excess acknowledgment.*
4. *See behind the scenes of your victory and add glamour to your praise.*
5. *If it means that much to you, then say it as it is, the way you receive it means that much to him.*
6. *Put the stars, the people, the parents, the servants and the scenery in your praise and you will have a better picture.*
7. *Elaborate to exaggerate your praise; detail your victories to capture a complete picture of your God in detailing, determining and delivering your victory.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O Lord my God, help me not to be silent about your goodness to me, in the name of Jesus.
- God of Heaven and Earth, King of Glory, You are the most glamorous and lavish Person I have ever known; my praise to You shall be profuse and bountiful, but even then it will not begin to capture your awesomeness. Amen.
- O God of my victories, give me a heart of appreciation to praise You constantly for Your blessings each day, in Jesus’ name.
- For Your elaborate work in my life, give me elaborate praises and help me to elaborate my praises, in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

OH, praise the Lord, it has happened;
Jehovah Shalom has brought peace!
When in your sight you are unworthy, then you see just what God sees.
When you are hiding in a winepress, not a place to thresh your wheat.
When you are called a mighty man of valor, and all you say is, “Where, Who me?”
When you throw down false gods’ altars, stand up and say, “Let those gods speak.”
When you have heard the word God has spoken, but you test it with a fleece,
Sound the trumpet for it has happened.
When you have witnessed all of these,
Your wind right now is changing; Jehovah Shalom has brought peace.

JUDGES 6

¹The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian for seven years,
²and Midian prevailed against Israel. Because of the Midianites, the children of Israel made for themselves strongholds in the mountains, and dens and caves.

³And so when Israel had sown, the Midianites came, the Amalekites and the people of the East also came up against them.

⁴They would encamp against them and destroy the produce of the land, as far as Gaza, and would leave no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor donkey. For they came with tents and cattle like grasshoppers in multitude.

⁵For they would come with their livestock and their tents, entering as numerous as the locusts; both they and their camels without number, and they would enter the land with the intent to destroy it.

⁶Therefore Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites, and so they cried; they cried, “O Lord!”

⁷And when the children of Israel cried out to the Lord because of the Midianites,

⁸the Lord sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them,

“This is what the Lord God of Israel says: I brought you out of the house of bondage; ⁹and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and I drove them out before you and gave to you their land.

¹⁰And I said to you, “I am the Lord your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.”

But you have not obeyed My voice.”

¹¹Then the Angel of the Lord came, and sat under the oak tree in Ophrah; it belonged to the Abiezrite whose name was Joash.

There in the winepress, his son Gideon threshed wheat, in order to hide it from the Midianites; *oh, how much they craved for peace!*

¹²And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him,

“The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!”

I wonder what He could have seen? Surely not with the eyes of Gideon;

¹³Gideon said to Him, “O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this disaster fallen on us.

And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, ‘Were we not brought up out of Egypt by the Lord?’

But now the Lord has forsaken us and has delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”

¹⁴Then the Lord looked on him and said, “Go in this your might, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Haven’t I sent you?”

¹⁵And Gideon responded, “O my Lord, how can I save Israel? My family is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least of my father’s house.”

16And the Lord said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

17And Gideon said to Him, "If I have found grace in Your sight, so I know that this is real, and that it is you who talk with me, show to me a sign."

18"Do not depart from here, I beg You, until I come to You and bring my offering and set it before You." And He said, "I will wait until you return."

19So Gideon went and prepared a young goat kid, and unleavened bread with flour. He put the meat in a basket, and the broth in a pot;

and He brought them out to Him under the oak and presented them.

20And the Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, lay them on this rock, then pour out the broth." And Gideon did so.

21Then the Angel of the Lord put out the end of the staff in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes, and out of the rock sprung up fire. It consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes, *to Gideon's surprise.*

Then the Angel of the Lord departed out of his sight.

22When Gideon perceived it was the Angel of the Lord, he said, "Alas, O Lord God, for face to face I have seen . . . I have seen an Angel! An Angel of God!"

23The Lord said to him, "Peace be to you Gideon; do not fear, you shall not die."

24Then Gideon built an altar there to the Lord, and called it Jehovah-Shalom (The Lord Is Peace).

It is in Ophrah of the Abizerites to this day.

25And it came to pass that same night, the Lord said to him, "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut the wooden image that is beside it down.

As long as that altar is standing there can be no peace around!

26"Then build an altar to the Lord your God on the top of the rock in the correct arrangement; then take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image you have cut down."

27So Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the Lord instructed him.

They cried for peace but would not get it until the image was removed from their midst.

But because he feared his father's household and the men of the city, he would not do it by day, and so he did it by night.

28And early in the morning when the men of the city arose, there it was, the altar of Baal torn down; and the wooden image that was beside it cut down, and the second bull was also offered on the altar that was built.

29And they said one to another, "Who could have done this thing?"

And when they inquired and asked, they said, "This was done by Gideon, the son of Joash."

30Then the men of the city said to Joash, "Bring out your son that he may die, for he has torn down the altar of Baal, and has cut down the wooden image that was there by it."

31But Joash said to them all, "Will you plead for Baal? Would you save him? He who will plead for Baal, let him now be put to death by morning!

His altar is torn down, if he is god, let him plead for himself!"

32Therefore, they called him Jerubbaal on that day, saying,

"Let Baal plead against him, for he has torn his altar down."

33Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites gathered with all the people of the East.

They did not know their dominance was broken; Jehovah Shalom had brought peace.

They crossed over, and there in the Valley of Jezreel they camped.

34But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew the trumpet when he heard this, and the Abiezerites gathered with him.

35And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, who also gathered with him.

He also sent to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali; and they came up and met with him.

36And Gideon said to the Lord, "If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said—**37**behold, I put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor;

if there is dew on the fleece only, and all the ground is dry, then I will know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said."

38And so it was, early the next morning he rose up, and squeezed the fleece together, and wrung the dew out in a bowl.

The bowl was full of water.

39Then Gideon spoke to God,

"Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more.

Let me prove, I pray You, just this once more with the fleece.

Let the fleece alone be dry and let the dew be on all the ground."

40And God did so that night. The fleece alone was dry, but all the ground was wet with dew. *Without a doubt or question Jehovah Shalom had brought peace.*

1. *Your problem may be a picture of your sin. Are you capturing God's attention for the wrong reasons?*
2. *Your sins have separated you from your God and caused Him to turn His back on you; appeal to His tender loving and forgiving nature...He can be touched.*
3. *The perfect set-up for God to move on your behalf is to pull your idols down and set God up in your heart.*
4. *When who you are in your eyes diminishes your image of who you are in God's eyes, you need refocus, optical correction; you need to hear God speak about you.*
5. *When you exalt the situation above God, you make God smaller than the situation. You determine the size of the God you serve by your comparative perception of the size of the problem you face.*
6. *Be fearless in pursuit of God's instructions and He will be resolute in your defence and promotion.*
7. *Will you plead for Baal or any of the other gods you worship? Will you violently defend their image or existence? Coming to the defence of your defender proves him defenceless.*
8. *Your experience, your history, and your environment, is only a part of your processing, it does not determine your destiny. Never confuse the process with the finished product.*
9. *Enjoy the exuberant triumph of putting God's word to the test by faith, rather than the enduring guilt of putting God to the test by doubt.*

PRAYER POINTS

- Father help me to grab Your attention by my righteousness and my worship rather than by my sin, in the name of Jesus.
- O Lord God my Father, help me to accept Your instructions about me, to me and for me, without question or contest, in the marvellous name of Jesus Christ.
- Heavenly Father, I stand covered in the redemptive blood of Jesus Christ, and reject every lie spoken to me by myself, by others, by my ancestry, by my attainments, by my resources, by perceived limitations, or by my environment, in Jesus' name.
- I am a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus, created in His image, redeemed by His blood, and a partaker of His divine nature, in the name of Jesus.
- Thank You Lord Jesus for raising me up to more than I could ever be. Amen.
- I am not afraid to do great things for God; Father, let me be Your battle axe to take down strong opponents of the cross, in the name of Jesus.

THE enemy is talking in the quiet of the night;
When all the world is sleeping, they are dreaming of your might.
Do not be afraid of their numbers, just you listen to the sound;
With God you are more than able; You need no great numbers of your own.
So when others have departed, should you feel you cannot win;
Do not fear, they are just being sorted so men will know God's mighty hand.
Shhh! Won't you listen! Feel the wind; hear

what it says;
The enemy is talking; Now up, up and away!

JUDGES 7

¹Then Jerubbaal (that is Gideon) and all the people with him rose up early and pitched camp by the well of Harod, with the host of Midian to the north of them, in the valley by the hill of Moreh.

²And the Lord said, "Gideon, the people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt itself against Me, saying, 'My own hand has done this!' No, this will not make the enemy talk.

³"Now go proclaim to the people, and say, 'All you who are fearful and afraid, depart at once from Mount Gilead.'

Twenty-two thousand left at once and ten thousand remained.

⁴And the Lord said to Gideon, "The people are still too many; bring them down to the water and I will test them there.

Then of whom I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go with you, and of whom I say, 'This one shall not go,' he shall not go with you."

⁵So Gideon brought the people down to the water.

And the Lord said to Gideon, "All those who lap the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, separate by himself; and also those who bow down on their knees to drink."

⁶Three hundred men lapped, putting their hand to their mouths, watchful; all the others got down on their knees to drink water.

⁷And the Lord said to Gideon, "By these three hundred men who lapped, I will save you, and deliver the Midianites to you.

Let all the other people go, every man to his home."

⁸So the three hundred men took provision and their trumpets in their hands.

And Gideon sent all the others away; every man returned except the three hundred. Now below them in the valley, the Midianites were encamped.

⁹And the Lord said to Gideon that same night, "I have delivered the camp into your hand, go down against them, arise!

¹⁰"Arise Gideon, engage their multitude, but do this one thing if you are afraid, *turn your ear to the wind and let the music fill your ear.*

"Go down with Purah your servant; *catch the beat of the enemies' heart;*

¹¹"your hand will be strengthened for battle when you hear the enemy talk."

So he went down with Purah his servant to the outskirts of the armed men in the camp.

¹²The Midianites and Amalekites, all the peo-

ple of the East were as numerous as grasshoppers in the valley; their camels were innumerable as the sand by the sea.

If it was strength he was after, it was not in what the eye could see.

¹³Then on the wind he heard it, a man telling a dream.

The man told his companion, "I dreamed a dream; and behold, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the host of Midian and came to a tent.

It struck it to the ground and overturned it, that the tent lay down!"

¹⁴Then his companion interpreted, and Gideon heard his name out loud.

"This is nothing else but the sword of Gideon, son of Joash, a man of Israel, into whose hand God has delivered Midian and the entire army."

¹⁵When Gideon heard the dream and the interpretation he worshipped.

He then returned to the people in his camp and said, "Arise, for the Lord has delivered the army of Midian into your hand."

¹⁶He then divided the three hundred men into three parties;

he gave a trumpet to every man, and he gave them empty pitchers with lamps in them.

¹⁷And he said to them, "Look at me and do likewise;

observe, and when I come outside the camp, do as I do.

¹⁸"When I blow the trumpet, with all who are with me,

you shall also blow the trumpet on every side of the camp, and say,

"The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"

He had confidence in his name because of what he heard.

¹⁹So at the beginning of the middle watch, Gideon and the hundred men with him came just outside the camp;

it was just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the

pitchers in their hands.

²⁰Then all three companies blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers—

they held the lamps in their left hands and the trumpets in their right hand for blowing—

and their cries were overpowering: "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"

²¹That was all that was needed; then every man stood in his place all around the camp. And the entire army of the Midianites ran and cried out and fled in fear.

It pays if you will hear it, for the enemy hears the 'enemy's talk'.

²²Another blow of the trumpets and enemies' swords pierced enemies' hearts.

For as the three hundred blew the trumpets, the Lord confused every man throughout the entire camp,

so they turned their swords against each

other; each slew his companion; and the army fled to Beth-acacia, towards Zererah, as far as the border of Abel-meholah by Tabbath; *killing each other in confusion as they ran.*

²³And the men of Israel gathered together out of Naphtali, Asher, and all Manasseh, and pursued the Midianites.

²⁴Then Gideon sent messengers throughout all Ephraim, saying, "Come down against the Midianites, and seize from them the watering places as far as Beth-barah and Jordan."

So all the men of Ephraim gathered and did accordingly.

²⁵And they captured the two princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb, and they killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and they killed Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb. They pursued Midian and brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon on the other side of Jordan.

The enemy has spoken; can you see you in their eyes?

For in the silence they are quaking; do not be weak in your own sight.

Know that you have power; know that you have might

though God may still be sifting some weak things from your life.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. Do not feel weakened when people you trust leave you, God may be sifting some weak things from your life so He can be strong for you.
2. The fearful will start a panic which will start a slide, filter them out of your circle of faith.
3. There is no place for the naive on the battlefield, God only positions those who are alert and watchful in spirit for His elite army.
4. God is numbers enough, not just number one but all the number you need; walk away the thousands and walk with the called-out ones.
5. Lap like a dog, watch constantly like a good soldier of the cross; eternity is that important.
6. God loves God-sized challenges not god-sized armies; when the battle becomes too big for you just stand still and see God.
7. When the arms of men fail, angels get to play; never omit them from your battles.
8. God will reduce your numbers to increase your faith. He will increase your challenge to reduce your focus to Him alone.
9. Rest assured, your enemies are secretly talking themselves to fear and defeat.
10. Do not be obsessed with your enemy's strength, they are obsessed with yours...and your God's, even before you introduce yourself.
11. A spiritual introduction beats any promotion or advertisement of man; trumpet to heaven and let heaven trumpet you to man.
12. Man will give you a name casually, but God will make you a name and a brand that man must contend with.
13. Divine strategies may be confusing...yes, especially to the enemy, they will use their swords against themselves.
14. There are rocks and winepresses to be named

after every spirit that opposes the work of God in your life.

PRAYER POINTS

- O God my Creator, help me to depend on You alone, and not on Your creation, in Jesus' name.
- My Father God, I thank You for every weak thing or person You have filtered from my life, in Jesus' name.
- Eternal Father and God, I may not see how but I see You and that is enough for me. Help me to respond to You even when I am baffled by what You are doing, in the name of Jesus.
- O God my Father, keep my enemies talking; let them prophesy their own demise. Amen.
- Almighty God, give me divine strategies, and childlike obedience to You, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Father God, program divine confusion into the heavens against every enemy of the cross, in the name of Jesus.
- King of Glory, Lord of Host, confuse every enemy of my destiny; let them destroy their own strength, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THEY cannot see you through God's eyes;
What you ask they will not do.
Who are you? What have you conquered?
This is what they will ask of you.
They will not see God through your eyes,
When victory in battle has been gained;
They will see you and not God,
And when you are gone, they will sin again.

JUDGES 8

¹But the men of Ephraim could only see themselves. They said to Gideon, "Why have you done this to us by not calling us into battle?" Gideon faced chiding angry men.
²He appealed to their ego and gave them pleasant words to keep, saying, "What have I done in comparison to you? Is not the gleanings of the grapes of Ephraim better than the vintage of Abiezer?"
³God has delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. What was I able to do compared to you?" And their anger was abated when he spoke these words of wisdom.
⁴Three hundred men with Gideon passed over Jordan that day; exhausted but still pursuing the kings of Midian.
⁵He said to the men of Succoth, "Please give loaves of bread to the people here with me, for they are hungry and exhausted, and I am pursuing Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian."
⁶And the princes of Succoth responded, "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?"
⁷And Gideon said in response:

"For this, when the Lord delivers Zebah and Zalmunna to me, I will tear your flesh with thorns and briars." *They could not see what he could see.*
⁸From there he went to Penuel, and in the same manner to them he spoke. The men of Penuel answered him just as the men of Succoth had done before.
⁹So he spoke to the men of Penuel, saying, "When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower!" *They too could not see what God had designed for him.*
¹⁰Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor, and with them were their army of about fifteen thousand men, all who remained of all the army of the people of the East. For one hundred and twenty thousand who drew the sword had fallen.
¹¹Then Gideon went up by the road of those who dwell in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah; and he attacked the army while they felt they were now secure.
¹²When Zebah and Zalmunna fled, he pursued them; and he took the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and discomfited the entire army.
¹³Then Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle, from the Ascent of Heres. *He caught Zebah and Zalmunna. Now the seventy-seven princes of Succoth would see, that to refuse to stand with God is to strike hands with the weak.*
¹⁴He caught a young man of Succoth and he ordered him to describe the princes of Succoth and its elders; the seventy-seven men who had defied him.
¹⁵Then he came to the men of Succoth and said, "Seel Zebah and Zalmunna of whom you said, 'Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in your hand, that we should give bread to your weary men?'"
¹⁶And he took the elders of the city and with briars and thorns, to the men of the city, a lesson he taught.
¹⁷Then he tore down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city who scoffed and laughed.
¹⁸And he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, "Tell me of the men who you killed at Tabor." And they replied, "They resemble the sons of a king; each of them were just as you are."
¹⁹Then Gideon said, "They were my brothers, my mother's sons. As the Lord lives, if you had spared them I would have spared you."
²⁰And he instructed Jether his firstborn son to kill them,

but he was afraid because he was a youth, and he would not draw his sword.

²¹So Zebah and Zalmunna said,

“You arise and kill us, for as a man is, so is his strength.”

So Gideon rose up and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and he took the ornaments that were on their camel’s necks.

They could not see him when he battled, but now it was, oh, so plain.

²²The men of Israel said to Gideon, “Rule us!” Yes, now they wanted him to reign. “You, your son and your grandson rule us, for you delivered us from the hand of Midian.” Oh, now we can clearly see.

²³He knew all the time in battle there was One to guide his sword.

So Gideon said to them, “Neither I nor my sons shall be your king – and he pointed them to the Lord –

the Lord shall rule over you.

He is the source of all my victories.

Let His strength, not mine, be yours.”

²⁴But Gideon did not know he would regret it, when he desired of them their gold.

He said, “I request that you give me the earrings from your plunder.”

For they had gold earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.

²⁵So they answered, “We will give them gladly.”

And they spread out a garment, and into it each man threw the earrings they had plundered.

²⁶The weight of the gold earrings he received was one thousand, seven hundred shekels, besides the crescent ornaments, the pendants and the purple robes which the kings of Midian wore, and besides the chains which were around their camel’s necks.

²⁷And Gideon made an ephod of the gold with it, and set it up in his city Ophrah.

And all Israel went prostituting after it there.

To Gideon and to his house it became a snare. *For this is all Israel could now see.*

He was grieved, for Israel saw him and the ephod, not the God of his victory.

So Gideon went and dwelt in his own house grieved, for Israel could not see God.

²⁸And so Midian was subdued before the children of Israel; they rose against them no more. And the country was quiet for forty years in the days of Gideon.

²⁹Then Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and dwelt in his own house.

³⁰Gideon had seventy sons, his own offspring, for he had many wives.

³¹And his concubine in Shechem also bore him a son named Abimelech.

³²And Gideon the son of Joash died at a good old age, and in his father’s sepulchre in Ophrah of the Abizerites they buried him.

³³And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, the children of Israel turned again, and they played the harlot with the Baals, and made Baal-berith their god.

³⁴And so the children of Israel did not remember the Lord their God, who delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side;

³⁵nor did they show kindness to the house of Jerubbaal (Gideon), according to the good he had done for Israel.

For they will not see you through God’s eyes, when the battle has begun.

Nor will they see God through your eyes, when the battle has been won.

But they will see you and not God though His goodness is made plain; and when you are no more in their sight, they will surely sin again.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. When the scenes of your life are shifting, see God who never changes and your life will never shift.
2. Never despise the days of small beginnings, or the days of significant breakthrough will despise and detest you.
3. There will be some who will fight against you fighting for them.
4. People will often not recognize your power for victory, but will wait until victory to applaud the process, the price and the prize.
5. Always applaud and encourage the initiative, the effort and the courage; you know who has gone out but you do not know who is coming back to you.
6. It is best to position yourself to be exalted by your investment than to be beheaded by your mockery of the investment.
7. See your enemies under your feet, see your feet on their necks; see your foot weighted by the cross, crushing the serpent’s head.
8. It is of God that it should be to God; it is of man to leave God out of the picture of His own painting.
9. If the image of God in your heart is smaller than the image of your sin, you will always resort to your sin when the novelty of your victory and deliverance wears off.
10. Give your heart to the God who gives you victories and business spoils rather than lose sight of your God to the image of your victory and your spoils.
11. What are you still searching for? It was, it has been, it still is God.
12. Do it unto the Lord or you will be distracted and disappointed; the hearts of men will soon forget you and your sacrifice for them.

PRAYER POINTS

- O God my Father, let my vision be fixed on you even when the scenes of my life have shifted, in the name of Jesus.
- By the power of God my Father, I put my feet on the necks of all my strong enemies, in the name of Jesus.
- O God my Father, put to silence and shame, every voice that gainsay Your work in my life, in the name of Jesus.
- King of hearts, give me the heart of an encourager, so I will applaud, support and encourage

every Kingdom impacting and courageous effort until it manifests, in the name of Jesus.

- By the power in the blood of Jesus, help me to recognize God investments that will advance the kingdom and bank my scarcity into it, in the name of Jesus.
- O God my Father, let my heart be never drawn away by, or to the things You have giving me in battle or business conquest, but let it be submitted to you in the precious name of Jesus.

ALL your life you have done them good; Evil is all that they return.

You risk your life to give them peace, But they will soon forget all that you have done.

I am speaking to a brother; I am speaking to a friend;

I am speaking to all those who will not justify themselves.

When all men turn against you, You wonder what you could have done?

Three years may seem a long time, But wait; God's judgment will surely come.

JUDGES 9

¹Abimelech son of Jerubbaal went to his mother's brothers at Shechem. He spoke to them and all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying, ²"Please, speak to all the men of Shechem, and say, 'What is better for you to do, to have all the seventy sons of Jerubbaal reign over you, or for one to reign over you?' Remember that I am your own flesh and bone."

³And his mother's brothers went and spoke all these words concerning him to the men of Shechem; and their heart was inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, "He is your brother."

⁴They gave him seventy shekels of silver from the temple of Baal-berith. With this Abimelech hired reckless and vain men, and they followed him.

⁵He then went to his father's house at Ophrah and killed his brothers, the seventy sons of Jerubbaal on one stone.

Gideon's kindness was now forgotten. They slew all Jerubbaal's sons, except for Jotham, the youngest son, who hid himself.

⁶And all the men of Shechem gathered together, all the house of Beth-millo, and they made Abimelech king by the plain at the pillar in Shechem.

⁷And when they told it to Jotham, he went, and at the top of Mount Gerizim he stood; and he lifted his voice and cried out. And he said to them;

"Men of Shechem, hear me good! Listen to me that God may listen to you!

⁸The trees went forth at a time appointed to anoint a king over them. They said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us!'

⁹"But the olive tree responded, 'Should I leave

giving my oil, with which they honor both God and man, to be promoted over the trees?'

¹⁰"Then the trees said to the fig tree, 'You come and reign over us!'

¹¹"But the fig trees said to them, 'Should I leave my sweetness and my good fruit, to be promoted over the trees?'

¹²"Come reign over us,' the trees then said to the vine;

¹³"But the vine said to them, 'For promotion over the trees should I leave my wine, which cheers both God and man?'

¹⁴"Then all the trees said to the bramble, 'You come reign over us!'

¹⁵"And the bramble said to the trees, 'If you anoint me as king over you this day, then put your trust in my shade; but if not, let fire come out of the bramble and let it devour the good cedars of Lebanon!'

¹⁶"Now therefore, if you have acted in truth and justice in making Abimelech king, and if you have treated Jerubbaal and his house well, even as he deserves to be treated—

¹⁷"oh how my father fought for you, risked his very life completely and delivered you out of the hand of Midian;

¹⁸"but you have risen up against my father this day, and slaughtered his seventy sons on one stone,

and you have made Abimelech, the son of his female slave, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother—

¹⁹"if you have acted in truth and sincerity with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice in Abimelech and let him rejoice in you the same.

²⁰"But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech and devour the men of Shechem and Beth-millo;

and let fire come from the men of Shechem and Beth-millo and devour Abimelech!"

²¹And for fear of his brother Abimelech, Jotham fled away and dwelt in Beer.

²²And it came to pass, after Abimelech had reigned over Israel for three years,

²³God sent a spirit of division between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,

²⁴that the cruelty done to his brothers, the seventy sons of Jerubbaal would be avenged, and their blood would be laid on Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and on the men of Shechem, who aided him to kill his brothers.

²⁵And the men of Shechem set men in ambush against him on the tops of mountains, and they robbed all who passed along that way by them.

And Abimelech was told.

²⁶And Gaal the son of Ebed came over with his brothers and went out to Shechem,

and the men of Shechem put their confidence in him.

²⁷So they went out into the fields, and gathered grapes from their vineyards and pressed them, and partied.

And they went into the house of their god, and ate and drank and cursed Abimelech.

²⁸Then Gaal the son of Ebed spoke with them and said, "Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? Is he not the son of Jerubbaal, with Zebul as his officer?"

Serve the men of Hamor, the father of Shechem; why should we serve him?

²⁹"If only I was in charge of you all, then I would remove Abimelech!"

So he said to Abimelech, "Increase your army and come out!"

³⁰When Zebul, the ruler of the city, heard Gaal's words, his anger was aroused.

³¹And he sent secretly to Abimelech saying, "Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers have come to Shechem; and they are there, fortifying the city against you.

³²"Now therefore, you and all the people with you, get up by night and lie in wait in the field.

³³"And it shall be, early in the morning, at the rising of the sun, rise up and rush the city; and when they come out against you, do to them as you desire to do."

³⁴So Abimelech and all the people with him, rose by night, and lay in ambush against Shechem in four companies.

³⁵When Gaal the son of Ebed went out, and stood in the entrance of the city gate, Abimelech and the people with him rose up from their ambush.

³⁶And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, "Look, people come down from the top of the mountains!"

But Zebul said to him, "You see the shadows of the mountains and think they are men."

³⁷Then Gaal spoke again and said, "See people are coming down from the middle of the land,

and by the plain of Elommeonenim, another company comes."

³⁸Then Zebul said, "Where is your mouth now, with which you said, 'Who is Abimelech that we should serve him?' Are not these the people you despised? Go out if you wish, and fight them now."

³⁹So Gaal went out, leading the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech.

⁴⁰And Abimelech chased him, and before him he fled;

and many fell wounded to the entrance of the gate.

⁴¹And Abimelech camped at Arumah, and Zebul drove out Gaal and his brothers from Shechem, so they could not live there.

⁴²And on the following day the people went

out into the field and told Abimelech.

⁴³And he divided his people into three companies, and set an ambush in the field.

And when they saw the people coming out of the city, he rose up against them and attacked them.

⁴⁴Then Abimelech and the company with him rushed forward and stood at the entrance of the city gate, and the other two companies rushed upon all the people who were in the fields and killed them.

⁴⁵So Abimelech fought against the city all day, took it, and killed the people in it; and tore down the city and sowed it all with salt.

He was very ruthless in spite of Zebul's kindness. This did not appease Abimelech, nor console his evil heart.

⁴⁶Now when all the men of the tower of Shechem had heard this, they entered the stronghold of the temple of the god Berith.

⁴⁷And Abimelech was told that the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together in the stronghold.

⁴⁸And he went up to Mount Zalmon, with all his people with him.

And Abimelech took an axe in his hand and cut a bough from the trees and laid it on his shoulder;

then he said to the people with him, "Make haste and do what I have done."

⁴⁹So each man cut down his bough and followed Abimelech;

they put them against the stronghold, and set it on fire above them, *(just as Jotham prophesied)*

so all the people of the tower, about a thousand men and women, died.

⁵⁰Then Abimelech went up to Thebez, and he camped against Thebez and took it.

⁵¹But there was a strong tower in the city, and all the people of the city, men and women, fled there and shut themselves in;

they then went up to the top of the tower.

⁵²And Abimelech fought against the tower and came near to burn the door with fire.

⁵³But a certain woman dropped a piece of millstone on his head, and it all but broke the skull.

⁵⁴Then he called the young man, his armour-bearer to come quickly, and said to him, "Kill me, that men do not say of me, 'A woman killed him.'"

So the young man thrust him through, and he died.

⁵⁵And when the men of Israel saw Abimelech dead, they left, and each man returned to his own place.

⁵⁶So God repaid the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did to his father by slaying his seventy brothers.

⁵⁷And the evil of the men of Shechem God re-

turned on their heads;
on them came the curse of Jotham the son of
Jerubbaal.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *The principle of sowing and reaping is an eternal law. Never be deceived, God is not mocked, whatever you sow you will reap with interest.*
2. *The devil incites household wickedness stemming from jealousy and greed to break you down from within and to hurt you most emotionally.*
3. *You may not be able to commit them to justice, but you can commit them to the Lord; He is a God of justice.*
4. *The lull does not mean you have escaped, but that your reward has gone ahead of you; you are quickly catching up.*
5. *Jealousy incites household wickedness; household wickedness incites God to jealousy.*
6. *If you strike hand with the wicked for evil, God will place you in their package for judgment; His hand will strike you both.*
7. *You undermine authority, someone is working to undermine yours.*
8. *Wickedness is not sustainable; it is programmed with self-destruction and death.*
9. *Your shameful end is simply a reflection of your shameful life; live holy and end in glory.*
10. *When you help the wicked you can expect hell from the wicked or hell because of your association with them.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O God my Father, I cancel and uproot every negative seed I have sown in my life, in the awesome name of Jesus Christ.
- Merciful God, forgive everyone who has wronged me; let them be overtaken by Your redemptive love, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, let every wickedness operating in my household be dismantled by fire, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Mighty God, let every agreement or league for wickedness against my destiny or against Your kingdom, be dismantled by fire, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ISN'T God good? Isn't He beautiful?
Isn't He Someone who is touched with all our grief?
Isn't God good, even when we turn away?
Yes, for if we return with all our heart and pray,
we shall see that God is good!
Isn't God good, even when we hear Him say,
"Go cry to the gods you serve; let them deliver in their name"?
But when we repent then we will see,
He is grieved by our grief.
God is good!**

JUDGES 10

¹And after Abimelech there arose Tola son of Puah, the son of Dodo, to defend Israel, he was a man of Issachar, and he dwelt in Shamir in Mount Ephraim.
²He died and was buried in Shamir, after he

judged Israel for twenty-three years.
³After him arose Jair, a Gileadite; he judged Israel for twenty-two years.
⁴He had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkey colts, and they had thirty cities; which are called Havoth-jair to this day; they are in the land of Gilead.
⁵And Jair died and they buried him in Camon.
⁶And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and they served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria and the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab and the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him.
⁷So the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel; and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the people of Ammon.
⁸From that year they were vexed and oppressed the children of Israel for eighteen years—all the children of Israel who were on the other side of Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead.
⁹Moreover, the people of Ammon crossed over Jordan to fight against Judah and Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, so they severely distressed Israel.
¹⁰And the children of Israel cried to God saying, "We have sinned against You, for we have forsaken our God and served the Baals."
And they knew then, God was good!
¹¹The Lord spoke to the children of Israel, saying, "Did I not deliver you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites, and from the people of Ammon and from the Philistines?
¹²"Also the Sidonians, the Amalekites, the Maonites oppressed you, and you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hand.
¹³"Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods. I will deliver you no more!
¹⁴"Go and cry to the gods you have chosen to serve. Let them deliver you in your time of tribulation."
¹⁵But the children of Israel said, "Lord, we have sinned! Do to us as it seems best to You; only deliver us Lord this day, we pray."
¹⁶And so they put away the strange gods from among them, and they served the Lord. And because of the misery of Israel, the soul of the Lord was grieved, He could no longer resist.
He is a God who can be touched; our God is good indeed!
¹⁷Then the children of Ammon gathered to-

gether and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled and encamped in Mizpah.

¹⁸And the people, the princes of Gilead, said to each other, "Who will be the man to lead us in the fight against the people of Ammon? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *Make God your abode and your resource rather than your convenience resort.*
2. *The good God you seek in bad times is the same God in good times who can prevent the bad times if you seek Him all the time.*
3. *Consistent pursuit is preventative, erratic pursuit is problematic.*
4. *The God who never changes will change His handwriting of judgement against you if you will truly repent; His love for you has never changed or shifted.*
5. *It takes gentle love and tenderness to give an ear knowing the anxiety in the voice does not reflect genuineness of the heart.*
6. *Never allow your presumption to abuse your privilege of grace; never confuse goodness with weakness.*
7. *The goodness of God continues to expose the callousness and insensitivity in the hearts of man.*
8. *When it comes to judgment, never be satisfied with the edict of the enemy; God can be touched; He already judged His Son to accommodate you.*
9. *So you feel you have gone too far? Try God!*

PRAYER POINTS

- O Lord God of grace, I thank You for who You are, a good, good Father, in Jesus' name.
- O God my Father, forgive me for every time I have taken your goodness for granted, in Jesus' name.
- Loving Father, help me never to nail You to the cross a second time by placing my selfish desires above Your righteous laws, in Jesus' name. Amen.
- Merciful and forgiving God, please forgive every Christian who is living an inconsistent life, abusing Your grace and tender mercies. Amen.
- Lord Jesus, by the power of the Holy Ghost within us, help us to judge ourselves so we will not face Your judgment. Amen.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, let the fear of the living God fall upon the church and on this nation, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE stone that they reject,
Has become the head; have you not heard?

**Be careful what you say,
For you may just want to eat those words.
Always do what is right,
Even when your words were rash.
Eat the words of God,
And you will know just what to talk.**

JUDGES 11

¹And eat their words they would, when they sent Jephthah the Gileadite away.

He was a mighty man of valour, and Gilead was his father, but his mother was a prostitute.

²Gilead's wife bore sons; and when his sons were grown, they threw Jephthah out and said to him, "You shall not inherit in our father's house, for you are the son of a sinful woman."

³And Jephthah fled from his brothers, and in the land of Tob he dwelt; and worthless men gathered to him and on raiding missions with him, he led them.

⁴*Eat their words indeed;* for this was no longer the time of peace; the children of Ammon made war with Israel after some time elapsed.

⁵And so, when Ammon made war with Israel, the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob.

⁶They said to the one they had rejected, "Come, and be our captain, that we may fight against the people of Ammon."

⁷And Jephthah said to the leaders of Gilead, "You hated me, and expelled me from my father's house."

⁸And the elders of Israel said to Jephthah, "That is the reason we turn again to you now, that you may go with us and fight Ammon, and you will be leader over all the people of Gilead in return."

⁹And Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If I go back home with you to fight Ammon, and the Lord delivers them before me, shall I be your leader then?"

¹⁰And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "Let the Lord be a witness between us if we do not do as you have said."

¹¹So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him leader and captain over them.

And Jephthah spoke all his words before the Lord in Mizpah.

¹²And Jephthah sent messengers to the king of Ammon, saying,

"What do you have with me, that you come to fight me in my land?"

¹³And the king of the children of Ammon responded, "Because Israel took my land away when they came up from Egypt, from Arnon as far as Jabbok, and to Jordan; therefore now, restore those lands peaceably."

¹⁴So Jephthah sent messengers again to the children of Ammon.

He did not accept it their way;

He had eaten God's word,

And he knew just what to say:

¹⁵So he said to him, "So says Jephthah: Israel did not take away

the land of Moab, nor the land of Ammon;

¹⁶for when Israel came up from Egypt, they walked through the wilderness as far as the Red Sea, and came to Kadesh.

¹⁷And Israel sent messengers to the king of Edom,

saying, "Please let me pass through your land."

But the king of Edom would not cooperate.
 18 And they sent similarly to the king of Moab, but he would not agree.

So Israel remained in Kadesh.
 And they continued through the wilderness and avoided the land of Edom and Moab, and came to the east of the land of Moab then, and camped on the other side of Arnon, but they did not come within the borders of Moab, for Arnon was the border.

19 Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon, king of the Amorites, saying to him, "Please let us pass through your land."

20 But Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his borders, so he gathered all his people, encamped in Jahaz, and fought Israel.

21 And the Lord God of Israel delivered Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they defeated them.

And so Israel possessed all the land of the Amorites, who inhabited that territory.

22 They took possession of all the territory of the Amorites, from Arnon to Jabbok and from the wilderness to Jordan.

23 The Lord God of Israel has dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel; should you then possess it?

24 Why not go and possess that which Chemosh your god gives you to possess? Whomever the Lord our God drives out from before us, and gives us their land to possess, we will possess.

We have eaten the Lord's word.

We know the truth; we know our rights.

25 Are you any better than Balak, son of Zippor, king of Moab?

Against Israel did he not contend to fight?

26 While Israel dwelt in Heshbon and its villages, in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities by the banks of Arnon, for the three hundred years, why did you not recover them in all that time till now?

27 Therefore I have not sinned against you, but you do me wrong to gather against me for war.

May the Lord, the Judge, give judgment this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon."

28 However, the king of Ammon did not listen to the words of Jephthah.

29 Then upon Jephthah, the Spirit of the Lord came;

and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and through Mizpah of Gilead; and from there he went forward towards the people of Ammon.

30 And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord. With his mouth he expressed these words, that would one day pierce his heart.

He said, "If You will truly deliver the children

of Ammon into my hands,

31 then it shall be, whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return from the children of Ammon in peace,

I will offer it up for a burnt offering; it shall be the Lord's certainly."

32 So Jephthah passed over to fight Ammon, and the Lord delivered them into his hands.

33 And he struck them from Aroer to as far as Minnith—twenty cities—to the plain of the vineyards.

It was a very great slaughter.

So the Ammonites were subdued before Israel.

But Jephthah would have to face the words he spoke,

for to know the word of God, is to know He requires your vows.

34 When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah;

there was his daughter, coming out to meet him with tambourines and dancing.

She was his only child.

He had no son or daughter except for her.

35 And so it was, when he saw her he tore his clothes,

and said, "Oh my daughter!

You are among the ones who troubles me!

For I opened my mouth to the Lord,

and I cannot go back on my word."

36 But she said to him, "Father, if you have opened your mouth to the Lord,

if you have made a vow to the Lord, do to me according to the vow of your mouth, for the Lord has avenged you of your enemies, the children of Ammon."

37 Then she said to her father, "Let this one request be given to me;

give me reprieve for two months that I may wander the mountains and weep with my friends, because of my virginity."

38 And he said "Go."

And he sent her away for two months; and she went with her friends, and bewailed her virginity on the mountains.

The stone the builders rejected has become the head, have you not heard?

Be careful what you say, for you may want to eat those words.

39 And so she returned to her father at the end of the two months,

and he did to her according to the vow which he had vowed.

She knew no man. And so it became a custom in Israel

40 that the daughters of Israel go to lament the daughter of Jephthah for four days every year.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. Handle your relationships with care, seasons change when you will care to have your relationships.
2. It is much easier to break up than to put together, to pull down than to build, be very careful of the

- allies you seek quarrel with.*
3. *If you are pushed into a corner, keep refining your craft, and your craft will make you the corner-stone.*
 4. *Your grave situation does not have to be the situation of your grave; refine your craft, send roots down, and it will be your platform for promotion.*
 5. *Your strength in battle is as mighty as your strength in God; refine your knowledge of the word.*
 6. *The word of God is your battle ax, it is your history, your victory and your destiny; be ever ready and ever armed for battle with the word.*
 7. *The word of God is living; He destroys physical opposition and defeats spiritual ones; all your battles are already won in the Word.*
 8. *If you have the word of God, why test God with your own rash words?*
 9. *Your vow is your bond in the spiritual world; fulfil it or it will expose you to spiritual exactors.*
 10. *Now that sin is satisfied in His Son, the only human sacrifice God requires are living sacrifices; accept His word and act without rash promises of your own.*
 11. *Your knowledge of, and persistent pursuance and reliance on, the Word of God will take you from obscurity to security, visibility, respectability and prominence.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O God my Father, I thank You that my grave situation, is not the situation of my grave but my platform for promotion, in the name of Jesus.
- O God my Father, Your word shall be a battle ax in my mouth. Amen.
- Merciful God, thank You for taking me from my place of obscurity to my place of destiny, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Loving Father, help me to magnify Your word in my life until Your word magnify my life, in the name of Jesus.
- By the power of the Holy Ghost in me, my words shall be filled with grace, seasoned with salt, and not rashness, in Jesus name.

EPHRAIM again who calls for strife, But when you call Ephraim, he will not fight.

Ready to fight when the battle is done, and to steal victory when victory is won. Ephraim again shall no more be heard; You will catch Ephraim in Ephraim's own words.

Judges will go, and judges will come, But Ephraim's deed will be judged once and done.

JUDGES 12

¹The men of Ephraim gathered, crossed over towards Zaphon, and to Jephthah they said, "Why did you cross over to fight against the people of Ammon, and you did not call us to go with you to fight? We will burn your house on you with fire." Ephraim, your rest is what they fought for, why take it from their mouths? And instead of celebration, threaten to burn their houses?

Ephraim again, but now too far; first with Gideon, here again with Jephthah. ²And Jephthah said to them, "Where does this strife come from?"

My people and I were in a great conflict with the children of Ammon; and when we called Ephraim to deliver us, Ephraim did not come.

³"So when I saw you would not deliver me, I took my life into my own hands and crossed over against the people of Ammon; and the Lord delivered them into my hand. You did not come out to save us when the enemy was alive, why then have you come up against me this day to fight?"

⁴And Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead and fought against Ephraim. And the men of Gilead defeated them, for they said, "You Gileadites are now fugitives of Ephraim among the Ephraimites and among Manasseh."

⁵Caught in their evil, Ephraim sought how to escape, but Gilead seized the fords of Jordan before Ephraim arrived, and so blocked their way. And when any Ephraimite who escaped said, "Let me cross over!"

Then men of Gilead would say, "Are you of Ephraim?" If he answered, "No."

⁶They would say to him, "Say Shibboleth," but they could not do so; instead they would say, "Sibboleth," for they could not pronounce it right.

In their own word Ephraim was caught. They would kill him at the fords of Jordan.

Ephraim again, Ephraim but taught. Forty-two thousand died of Ephraim, till Ephraim's pride was gone.

⁷And Jephthah judged Israel for six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and was buried in the cities of Gilead.

⁸After him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel.

⁹He had thirty sons. And he gave away thirty daughters in marriage, and brought in thirty daughters for his sons. He judged Israel seven years.

¹⁰And Ibzan died and was buried at Bethlehem.

¹¹After him, Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel. He judged Israel ten years.

¹²And Elon died and was buried at Aijalon in the land of Zebulun.

¹³And after him, Abdon the son of Hilel the Pirathonite judged Israel.

¹⁴He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who rode on seventy young donkeys. He judged Israel for eight years.

¹⁵Then Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died and was buried in Pirathon the land of Ephraim, in the mountains of the Amalekites. *But know that pride will destroy men; so when they fight for what you have gained, they fight a losing battle; it is just Ephraim again.*

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *The fast track to glory is the highway to shame; pride is the standard bearer for a fall.*
2. *You are obviously fighting the wrong battle when you fight the heroes who fought the enemy you would not fight.*
3. *The fight for glory is a battle you can never win.*
4. *Seek out praise and give it lavishly; seek out contention and you will be disgraced catastrophically.*
5. *Be sensitive. Welcome home your heroes with joy and encouragement; do not frustrate them with your pettiness.*
6. *Never seek to build your glory on the backs of others, there are ample opportunities for adventure and conquest in the kingdom.*
7. *Your accent may be unusual, but think carefully before you speak seeking ascension to positions you have not earned; your words and not your accent, may be your descent.*
8. *God gives you judges to deliver you when you fail to judge and regulate yourself.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O God my Father, remove far from me the sin of envy and covetousness, in the name of Jesus.
- My Father, my God, let me be a warrior in Your cause, a worker in the fields of souls and not just a boaster in the achievement of others. Amen.
- God of my destiny, help me to blaze trails for You that will make people envy my achievements. Amen.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, let the fight in the spirit of Christians be expended on the battlefield of souls, rather than exhausted doing battle with those who are giving their all in service. Amen.

Moved by the Spirit; something is going on.
Moved by purpose; there is a difference in the camp.
Moved by curiosity, "Let the thing you say be proved."
But when he saw the glory, with awe he was so moved.

JUDGES 13

Moved out of the Lord's shadow:
¹Again the children of Israel did evil in the Lord's sight.
 And the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines, they were forty years in this plight.
²There was a certain man named Manoah, of the family of the Danites from Zorah; and his wife was barren, she bore no children.
³And the angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, "You are now barren and have no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.
⁴Now therefore, be careful not to drink wine or any strong drink,
 and ensure you do not eat anything unclean.
⁵"For surely, you shall conceive and bear a son.

And no razor shall come on his head, for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb;
 and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."
⁶So she came and told her husband, "I saw a man of God!
 His countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very awesome;
 but I did not ask him where he came from, nor did he tell me his name.
⁷"And he said to me, 'You shall conceive and bear a son.
 Drink no wine nor strong drink, nor eat anything unclean,
 for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb until he dies."
⁸Then Manoah prayed to the Lord, saying, "O Lord, please let the man of God You sent come to us one more time,
 and teach us what we shall do for the child when he is born."
⁹And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field;
 but her husband Manoah was not with her.
¹⁰So she hurried and ran to get her husband, and said to him, "The man who came to me the other day has now re-appeared."
¹¹So Manoah rose up and went up with his wife, and when he came to the man, he said to him,
 "Are you the man who spoke to my wife?"
 And he said, "I am."
¹²And Manoah said, "Now let your words come to pass; tell us what we shall do to this child. How shall we order and care for him?"
¹³And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, "All I have spoken to the woman, let her be attentive to perform.
¹⁴"She shall not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing.
 All I command her, let her observe to do."
¹⁵Then Manoah said to the angel, "Please let me detain you, and we will prepare a goat kid for you."
¹⁶And the angel replied, "Though you detain me, I will not eat your food.
 If you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the Lord."
 (For Manoah did not know he was an angel of the Lord).
¹⁷Then Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, "What is your name,
 that when these things come to pass, we may know to whose honor were these things said?"
¹⁸Then the angel said, "Why do you ask my name since it is a secret?"
But he was amazed when he offered up the kid.
¹⁹Manoah took the goat kid with the grain offering, and offered it upon the rock to the Lord.
 And the angel did a marvellous thing while

Manoah and his wife looked on—
 20 as the flame reached up towards heaven from the altar, the angel of the Lord was... going... going... gone!

For he ascended in the flame from the altar! When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces.

They no longer sought his name; all they wanted now was grace.

21 When the angel of the Lord did not reappear to Manoah and his wife, Manoah knew he was an angel of the Lord.

22 And Manoah said to his wife, “We shall surely die because we have seen God!”

23 But his wife said to him, “If the Lord wanted to kill us, he would not have accepted our burnt offering and our grain offering, nor would he have shown us these things.”

24 So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson;

and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him.

25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan, and also there in the camp between Zorah and Eshtaol Israel knew that the Spirit was on Samson, for by God Samson was being moved.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *Your barrenness(let-down) in any area of your life may be a set-up for your fruitfulness in God to manifest. Maintain your faithfulness.*
2. *Christians are only truly barren if they fail to perceive, conceive, incubate, and release the word of God to their generation.*
3. *You are daily a beneficiary of angelic ministration and a candidate for angelic visitation; keep believing for the supernatural promises of the Word.*
4. *God is preparing Him an answer for your generation, you may have to prepare the conditions to receive it.*
5. *God is preparing Him an answer for your generation, you must be prepared to nurture and release it.*
6. *You can be mystified by the supernatural reports, or you can be a part of the mystery that mystifies others if you will seek God just as Manoah.*
7. *Pray to the Lord for the rise of a generation that will shake the world for better; believe God for children of distinction and purpose.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O God my Father, I thank You for the answers You have prepared for this generation, let it manifest by fire, in the mighty name of Jesus.
- God of heaven and earth, we thank You for explosive revelations and explosive intervention in this imploding generation, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- O God my Father, we thank You for angelic visitations, angelic manifestations, and supernatural interventions in the nations, in the powerful name of Jesus.
- Father God, raise up answers in these troubled times, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Omnipotent Father, King of Glory, make me an answer to my generation, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

**HE gave to them a riddle
 They just could not understand;
 Why go to the Philistines,
 And leave the daughters of this land?
 What meat is there in eaters?
 What sweet comes from the strong?
 What good to us is his wife?
 Where would thirty changes of clothes
 come from?**

JUDGES 14

1 And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman there he liked.

2 So he went and told his father and his mother, “I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnath, get her for me to be my wife.”

@His behavior brought many questions; a riddle they could not understand.

3 His father and mother said to him, “Is there no woman among the daughters of your family, or among all your people for you to choose from,

that you must go and get a wife from the Philistines; the uncircumcised?”

But Samson said, “Get her for me, for I like her.”

4 His father and mother did not know, that the answer to this riddle, was wrapped up in God’s will.

He was seeking to pick a quarrel with the Philistines; to break their yoke from Israel. For at that time the Philistines dominated and oppressed Israel.

5 So Samson went down to Timnath with his father and his mother, and when he reached the vineyards of Timnath, to his surprise, a young lion came roaring at him.

6 Then the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon Samson, and he tore the lion apart; it was just as someone would have torn up the kid of a goat, yet he had nothing in his hand. He did not tell his mother or father what he had done.

7 He went down and talked with the woman, and Samson was very pleased with her.

8 And after some time he went again to get her, he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion. And he found a swarm of bees and honey inside the carcass.

9 He took some in his hands and was eating as he went.

When he came to his father and mother he gave some to them.

“Come taste of my honey, mother, father; tell me, is it sweet?”

But he did not tell them it was taken from *the belly of the beast*—the carcass of the lion.

10 So his father went down to the woman, and Samson made a feast there, for this was the custom of young men.

¹¹And when they saw him, they brought thirty companions to be with him.

¹²To thirty men he gave a riddle, and seven days to find it out.

Thirty linen sheets, and thirty changes of clothes, was what the riddle was worth.

¹³And he said, "If you cannot explain it to me, you give me the thirty linen sheets and the thirty changes of clothes instead."

"We will hear this riddle," they said, *though another riddle plagued their minds; "Where do we get thirty changes of garments, if the answer we cannot find?"*

¹⁴They listened and they heard it, "Out of the eater came something to eat."

It was compounded by the echo, "Out of the strong came something sweet."

They exhausted three days but could not explain it, though they tried in every way.

¹⁵*And they became anxious for the answer was not known in three more days.*

Then had conspired to get the answer. It must be found in Samson's wife.

Let the answer be her riddle. Let her face the threat of fire.

¹⁵So on the seventh day they told her, "Entice your husband, it is your turn. Let him declare to you the meaning of this riddle,

or you and your father's house we will burn. Have you invited us to take away what we have? Is that not what you have done?"

¹⁶So this weeping beauty came to Samson; tears blurred her pain-filled words, "You hate me! You do not love me!

You have given the sons of my people a riddle, but you have not showed me what it means." And he said, "Should I explain it to you, when to my father and mother, I have not even explained it?"

¹⁷She wept to him for the entire seven days; all seven days they held the feast.

This was supposed to be his wedding, but he was not enjoying it.

On the seventh day he told her for she was nagging him so much.

It was the price of her happiness.

And she explained it to the men of her people who had threatened her.

¹⁸On the seventh day the men of the city came to Samson, head high with pride made known,

they came and spoke with confidence before the sun went down.

"What is sweeter now than honey?

Or like a lion what is strong?"

@What relief to have the answer, and to know it was not wrong.

And he said to them, "You have ploughed with my wife,

or my riddle you could not have solved."

¹⁹*He gave to them another riddle; when with thirty lives the price was paid.*

The Spirit of the Lord came on him mightily,

and he went down to Ashkelon and slew thirty of their men.

And his anger was aroused greatly, and he went back to his father's house enraged.

²⁰*Yet they gave to him their own riddle, when they gave his wife away, to his companion who was the best man at his wedding those days.*

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *You may eat honey from the carcass of a lion, but the enemy will eat it from your heart if you allow them.*
2. *The awesome strength to kill a lion is awfully weak in the presence of a beautiful nagging woman; weaknesses you do not strengthen will defeat you.*
3. *Do not let your honey steal your divine secrets; keep your secrets and you will keep your honey.*
4. *The riddle of divine confusion may be the working of divine purposes.*
5. *The Spirit of the Lord in you is angry every day with the wicked and sinful friends you entertain and fraternize with.*
6. *Your love for the enemy is your downfall, and your arrogance your pitfall.*
7. *Flirt with the enemy you flirt with your strength, and surrender your advantage against the enemy.*
8. *Holy anger is telling you, "Go slay your thirty with the Word, rather than entertain thirty to satisfy your soul."*
9. *The spirit of the righteous will always be angry in the presence of the enemy of their souls; comfort and marriage are delusions.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O Lord my God, help me to understand who I am in You, so I will live to please You and not myself, to pursue You, and not my own passions, in Jesus name.
- Righteous Father, help me not to be confused by the riddle of my own life when Your word to me and about me is plain, in Jesus name.
- Most High God, let my life be fulfilled by direction and not by default in the most excellent name of Jesus.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, I shall not give my strength away to the enemies. Amen.
- God of power and might, let wisdom settle it for me so I will not have to resort to physical strength. Amen.

**WITH the jawbone of an ass,
Heaps upon heaps,
One thousand men were slain,
And water he received.
What is your source of victory?
Where will provision now come from?
Is it from your so-called rulers
Or the God who uses the things at hand?**

JUDGES 15

¹After some time, in the time of wheat harvest, Samson went down to visit his wife.

He brought with him a goat kid and said, "Let me go in to her room tonight."

But her father would not let him go in.

²Her father said, "I really thought you hated her entirely, therefore I give her to your companion.

Is not her younger sister much more beautiful than her? Please take her instead."

@He saw her father's jaw moving, as he said, "I thought you hated her a lot."

Could he have thought that it would come down to the jawbone of an ass?

³For Samson it was not just beauty, but a passion in his heart.

He said, "Now I shall be more than blameless, though the Philistines I shall harm."

⁴Then Samson caught three hundred foxes, and turned them tail to tail—in battle he knew no convention; this was no standard way—he placed torches between each pair of tails.

⁵He lit the torches and let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines, and burned up the shocks, the standing grain, the vineyards and the olives fields.

⁶And the Philistines asked, "Who has done this?"

They answered, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, for he has taken his wife and given her to his companion."

So the Philistines came and burnt her and her father with fire.

⁷And Samson said to them, "Because you would do something like this, I will surely take revenge on you and then I will cease."

⁸So he struck them with a great slaughter, then he went down and dwelt in the cleft at the top of the rock Etam.

@But this one woman had sparked a raging war. If contention was God's purpose, then the Philistines were His mark.

⁹The Philistines went up and camped in Judah, and in Lehi they were spread;

¹⁰"Why have you come up against us?"

The men of Judah asked and said.

And they answered, "We are here to bind the strongman, to do to him as he has done to us."

¹¹Then three thousand men of Judah, went up the Rock Etam, to the cleft at the top.

@They came to him together.

They came three thousand strong.

The three thousand came to Samson.

They came to him as one.

And they said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines rule over us?"

'Oh, I thought that it was God.'

"What is this you have done to us now?"

And he said, "What they did to me I have done to them, I just paid them back."

¹²They said, "We are here to bind you Samson,"

'Would be a shame to see you dead.'

"We will deliver you into the hands of the Philistines."

And Samson said, "Swear you will not try to kill me yourselves."

¹³And they responded, "We will tie you securely and deliver you into their hand, but we will not kill you ourselves, we swear." And with two strong new ropes they bound him, and brought him up from there.

¹⁴When he came to the Philistines in Lehi, the Philistines advanced shouting against him,

the Spirit of the Lord came on him mightily, and the ropes on his arms became like wisp burnt in fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands.

¹⁵And he found a new jawbone of a donkey, and he took it up in his hands, and with it he killed one thousand men.

¹⁶Then Samson said,

"With a jawbone of an ass, heaps upon heaps; with the jawbone of an ass I have slain a thousand men."

@His strength was not in Judah, for then it would have been betrayed.

His strength was not in the jawbone, but from God only his strength came.

Many men would have taken jawbone memento to remind them of the day, or to use in the next battle,

¹⁷but when he had finished speaking, Samson threw the jawbone away.

He called that place Ramath-lehi.

¹⁸Then he became very thirsty, so he cried out to the Lord and said,

"Lord, You gave this great deliverance by Your servant's hand, now shall I die from thirst and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?"

¹⁹So God split a hallow place there in Lehi, and water came out and he drank; and his spirit revived, he was refreshed.

Therefore Samson named the place En-hakkore, which is in Lehi to this day.

²⁰And Samson judged Israel for twenty years in the days of the Philistines.

@In the midst of life's challenges,

Ask the Lord to place you there;

Where you do not know how He delivers,

You do not know how He provides;

All you know is things thought useless

May just suddenly come alive.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. The Spirit of God inside you is your greatest connection to the supernatural, draw upon His strength and His resources as you pursue fulfillment.
2. Devastating strength in the arms of an angry man is devastating to the man, yet the purposes of God are deliberate.
3. If you find that you cannot help but get devils mad at you, it is ok, you must crush the head of angry devils on the road to kingdom advancement.
4. Same God different challenges; let it attract the same response of faith from you; the God who conquered your enemy can bring you water

from the Rock.

5. Do not base your future on your past, but let your past be a platform for your future. Throw the jawbone away and embrace the next move of God.
6. God can use anything in your hand to hand you victory if your strength is not in your hands but in God.
7. Friend and family will give you up if tested enough, be fully grounded in God, He will never let you go.

PRAYER POINTS

- O God my Father, thank You for every victory You have wrought, every deliverance You have worked, every provision You have brought into my life, in Jesus name.
- O Lord God of Israel, it is precious to know You will never let me go. Amen.
- God of my victories, help me not to magnify the things and people You use to bless me above You in Jesus name. Help me to count the past as nothing so I may reach forward to embrace what You have in store for my life. Amen.
- Father God, help me to develop and manage my strength in You with wisdom so that Your assignment for my life will be fulfilled.
- Thank You Holy Father that I am not without an answer to my present situation and to my generation; let it be settled in my heart that You can use anything I have in my hand or at hand to manifest Your glory. Amen.

**YOUR strength is not in numbers;
Your strength is with the Lord.
With Him tear gates from cities,
and escape from every sword.
But know the name Delilah;
She comes to steal your joy.
Do not give in to her seductions,
for your victories she will destroy.
She will steal the strength you cling to,
and make you lose your sight;
But if you see God with your spirit,
purpose will come back to life.**

JUDGES 16

¹Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and he went in to her.
²The Gazites were told Samson had come to Gaza, so they surrounded the place and lay an ambush for him all night at the city gate. The night was still and quiet; all night they remained hush, saying, “We will kill him in the morning when the dawn comes.”
³Samson did nothing until midnight, but at midnight he arose, and took hold of the gates of the city with the two gateposts. He pulled them up, with bar and everything, and he put them on his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill facing Hebron.
@They looked and saw the opening; the gates were torn right out.

They trembled at the power of the man whose strength was God.

@They could not beat him with their numbers; no, it was not enough.

They could not outsmart him with their great plans, so they would try his heart with love.

⁴Samson loved this woman; her name was Delilah.

The Valley of Sorek was her place.

⁵And so the Philistine lords came to her.

Seduction was their way.

@They knew that she was wicked, and love was just a game.

They knew that she loved money, and love she would betray.

They said to her, “Entice Samson, and find the source of his great strength, how we may overcome him and bind him to afflict him,

and each of us will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver.”

@They could not fight his strength in battle, but they could cause him to lose it.

@She did not try to be subtle; she had him bound to love;

⁶Delilah said, “Tell me your great strength, Samson, and how you may be bound that we may afflict you.”

⁷And Samson said to her, “If they bind me with seven fresh cords, that are not yet dried; I shall be weak, and be like any other man.”

⁸So the lords of the Philistines brought the seven fresh chords to her, and she used them to bind Samson.

@He was bound by her love and now by the fresh cords.

⁹She had men lying in ambush with her in the room; to overpower him.

She said to him, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!”

He then broke the cords as a thread that is burnt in the fire,

so the secret of his strength was not known.

@But he did not break her kiss, though her inner heart was shown.

Her deception was not hidden.

His love made her so bold.

¹⁰And Delilah said to Samson, “You have mocked me and told me lies.

Now tell me with what you may be bound.”

¹¹And he said to her, “If they bind me steadfastly with ropes that were never used before, then I shall become weak as any other man.”

¹²And Delilah took new ropes and bound him, and said, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you.”

Again men were waiting in the room; Samson broke the new ropes as if they were a thread.

@Again he saw that she meant evil, yet he did not break himself from out her bed.

¹³And Delilah said to Samson, “Until now you have mocked me and told me lies, tell me with

what you may be bound.”

@Love wanted so much to tell her, but wisdom said, “Be warned.”

But she was getting closer to his strength; to do him harm.

He said to her, “If you weave the seven locks of my hair into the web of the loom.”

14So she wove it tightly and fastened it with a beam and said,

“The Philistines are attacking you, Samson!”

And from his sleep he awakened, and pulled out the beam and the web from the loom.

@That was very close, too close; this was obviously no game.

They say love will make one foolish.

He came back to her again.

15She said to him, “How can you say you love me, yet your heart is not with me?

Three times now you have mocked me; and you have not told me where to find your great strength.”

16With these words she nagged him daily, until his soul was frustrated to death.

@Vexed for she was asking God’s displeasure, and still, he would not let her go just yet.

It will pierce you like an arrow, and your life quickly destroy.

You will regret the moment, you give Delilah all your heart.

17His love was strong, and so he told her all his heart and said,

“No razor has ever come upon my head, for from my mother’s womb I have been a Naz-
arite to the Lord.

If I am shaved, my strength will leave me and I will be weak as any other man.”

@He knew that she would do it.

She acted every time before this one.

He won the woman’s approval, but he lost his strength in God.

18When Delilah saw that he bared his heart to her,

she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, “Come up now, once more, for he has shown me all his heart.”

So the lords of the Philistines came to her, and brought the money in their hand.

@He would sleep that night in her embrace, but he would wake up in their bonds!

19As he slept in the lap of Delilah, another man shaved his seven locks off. She began to torment and afflict him that same moment, but his strength was gone.

20And she said, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!”

He awoke and said, “I will go out as before, and shake myself free as in old times.” He did not know that the Lord was with him no more.

@He lost his strength and God’s favor.

He lost his vision and his sight.

For he entertained Delilah, and now he was to lose his eyes.

21The Philistines plucked his eyes out, then they brought him down to Gaza.

With bronze fetters he was bound; where bronze fetters never held him in times before.

And they made him grind in their prisons.

@If you are enticed by Delilah, then break off all the ties.

Anything that blinds God from you, is altogether a lie.

But if you have lost your way, then you should know,

return and seek your Maker; yes, cause your hair to grow.

22Samson’s hair was growing again after it had been shaved.

23The lords of the Philistines came together to rejoice, and to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god.

And they said, “Our god has delivered our enemy and destroyer into our hands!”

24When the people saw him, they praised their god, for they said:

“Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the destroyer of our land, the one who multiplied our dead.”

25So it happened, when their hearts were drunken, they said,

“Call Samson, that he may entertain us.”

So they brought Samson from prison, and they made fun of him.

26Then Samson said to the boy who held him by the hand, “Let me feel the pillars which support the temple that I may lean on them.”

27The temple was filled with men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there, and there were about three thousand men and women on the roof watching the entertainment.

28Then Samson called to the Lord, and said, “O Lord, remember me I pray! Strengthen me just this once,

that I may with one strike, take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!”

29And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on the right and the other on the left.

30And Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!”

And he pushed with all his might.

@They must have found it entertaining, wondering what he was about.

Before they realized it, he was bringing down the house.

The temple fell on the lords and on all the people who were in it.

The people he killed at his death were more than those he killed during his life.

31His brothers and all his father’s household came and took him from there.

They buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol, in the burying place of his father Manoah.

He judged Israel for twenty years.

@If you are serving on the forefront, and you lose the strength you had, purpose will be restored if you will find the heart of God.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *The strong gates of cities are not your limitations, your own addiction to sinful pleasures is.*
2. *Sin is telling you it is going to kill you, bind and afflict you; it has attempted many times, you know it, why then do you not believe?*
3. *Do not let a member of the opposite sex steal your strength in God, or you will lose both them and your strength in God.*
4. *If they are of the enemy they can be instructed by the enemy; it is a trap. Do not be unequally yoked.*
5. *You cannot trust the best of your enemy; no man can serve two masters; the devil has full rights to instruct his servant followers against their Godly friends.*
6. *Do not wait to test the outcome, flee for your life!*
7. *You lose your vision before you lose your eyes, keep your eyes on the word of God and maintain your vision.*
8. *You are in prison of your own failures, you are ridiculed and enslaved by your own presumption; remember your place of glory, embrace your strength in God; let your hair grow.*
9. *Your enemy does not have the final say, your failures do not have the final say, your imprisonment does not have the final say, God has the final say.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O God my Father, help me to value Your purpose in my life above my personal desires, in the name of Jesus.
- Lord God of Abraham, remove every destiny stealer and every spirit of distraction from my life, in the name of Jesus.
- Father God, give me the wisdom to keep my strength in You out of the reach of the enemy. Amen.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, let every point of access to my strength in God and vision be closed by fire, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Every spirit assigned to keep my heart blind to the attack of the enemy on my life and ministry, be scattered by fire, in the name of Jesus.
- Let every destiny stealer assigned to my life and ministry be fanned away by the blood of Jesus. Amen.
- I declare that I shall not love anything on this earth more than my God who created the earth, in Jesus name.
- Thank You Lord that my hair is growing, in Jesus name. I declare that I have the Holy Ghost bounce, I will come back strong, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

TO make you gods of silver, to have a house of gods, To set a Levite over it, then tell me what you have? Can you see the God of Israel? Or do you fill your house with lies? Or what is good in your own circle, or right

in your own eyes?

JUDGES 17

¹There was a man from the mountains of Ephraim named Micah.
²He said to his mother, “The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from you, and which you cursed about in my earshot—here is the silver with me; I took it.” And his mother said, “May you be blessed of the Lord, my son!”
³When he had returned the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, she said, “I had dedicated it completely from my hand to the Lord for you, to make a carved image and a molten image; therefore I will return it to you.”
@They were better off without it for it was to make them gods.
⁴He returned the silver to his mother; and she took two hundred shekels of silver and gave it to the silversmith, and he made it into a carved image and a molten image; and they were placed in Micah’s house.
⁵Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod, and household idols, and consecrated one of his sons to be priest.
Micah had a house of gods! His faith was now in these molten images.
⁶At that time there was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
⁷There was a young man from Bethlehem in Judah; he was a Levite staying there.
⁸He left the city of Bethlehem-judah to stay wherever he could find a place. He came to the mountains of Ephraim, to the house of Micah on his journey.
A young man of Levi, priest of God, would be priest to idols that day.
⁹Micah said to him, “Where are you coming from?”
 So he said to him, “I am a Levite of Bethlehem in Judah, and I am in search of a place to stay.”
¹⁰Micah said to him, “Live with me, and be a father and a priest to me, and I will give you ten shekels of silver per year, a suit of clothes and food as your pay.”
 So the Levite went in.
¹¹The Levite was content to dwell with Micah, and he became as one of his sons to him.
¹²So Micah consecrated the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and he lived with him.
¹³And Micah said, “Now I know the Lord will treat me well for I have a Levite as my priest.”
@Good to have a Levite, but tell me what are all these?
Obey the Lord’s commandments; set His words before your eyes.
Yes, indeed, He will do you good when to you His laws are good and right.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *It is best to lose all your wealth and be poor than to use all your wealth to improvise your spirit.*
2. *Never be in bondage to your wealth, release your wealth to free those who are in bondage.*
3. *A confusion of the laus of God with other gods does not work His righteousness; God requires total obedience.*
4. *Do not waste your qualification on futile administrations.*
5. *A priest of God ministering to idols is an idol worshipper just as a man of God living in sin is a sinner.*
6. *You cannot place heaven on a hell bound flight; everything goes to hell. This includes idolatrous priests and idol worshippers.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O God my Father, help me never to compromise your laws to suit my own evil lust, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- My Father, my God, help me never to seek to replace You, or substitute You for anything You give to me, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- King of glory, help me to use the resources You give to me responsibly. Let me use my wealth to build Your kingdom and not to oppose it, in the name of Jesus.
- By the power of the Holy Spirit, I will never waste my God-given gifts on useless administration, in the name of Jesus.
- By the Holy Ghost and fire, I reject every attempt of the enemy to employ me in any assignment that opposes the kingdom of God on earth; in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**IT IS RIGHT to go get your inheritance,
And right to ask the Lord the way;
It is right to claim what God has given,
And, indeed, it is right to pray.
But why turn to carved images?
Why take it to your land?
Why turn from the house of God at Shiloh?
Right! All of these are wrong!**

JUDGES 18

¹In those days there was no king in Israel, and the Danites set out to do something right, to seek an inheritance to dwell in among the tribes of Israel.

For to that day, they had not yet received their inheritance that was given them by God.

²So the children of Dan sent five men of their family, men of valor, from Zorah and Eshtaol, to search and to spy out the land. They told them, "Go, search the land."

So they came to Mount Ephraim, and with Micah at his house the five men lodged.

³At his house, they recognized the voice of the Levite.

They went and said to him, "Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What is it you have here?"

⁴He said to them, "This is what Micah did for me, he hired me and I have become his priest."

⁵So they said, "Please ask counsel of God for

us, so we will know if we will have a prosperous journey."

⁶The priest said to them, "Go in peace. The presence of the Lord be with you in the way you go."

⁷So the five left and came to Laish. They saw a people there dwelling safely, just as the Sidonians, quiet and secure.

They had no magistrates to put them to shame; they were far from the Sidonians, and were isolated, they had no business relations.

⁸The spies returned to their brethren at Zorah and Eshtaol, and they said to them, "What do you have to report?"

⁹And they said, "Arise, let us go, for we have seen the land; it is very good; why are you yet still?"

Do not be hesitant to go, and enter to possess the land.

¹⁰"You shall come to a people secure and a land that is large; for God has given it into your hands; a place where there is no lack of anything on the earth."

¹¹Six hundred men of the Danites went from there, from Zorah and Eshtaol with weapons of war.

¹²They went up and made camp in Kiriath-jearim in Judah.

(Therefore they called the place Mahaneh-dan to this day. It is west of Kiriath-jearim.)

¹³Then they passed from there to the mountains of Ephraim, and to the house of Micah they came.

¹⁴Then the five men who had gone out to spy out the country of Laish said to them, "Do you know that in this house there are an ephod, household idols, a carved image, and a molded image?"

Consider now what you should do."

¹⁵So they turned aside and came to the house of the young Levite—to the house of Micah—and they greeted him.

They set out to do something right but stopped to do something wrong.

¹⁶The six hundred Danites armed with weapons of war, stood at the entrance of Micah's gate.

¹⁷And the men who were sent as spies went in and took the gods that were in their hearts: the carved image, the ephod, the household idols, and the molded image.

The priest stood at the entrance of the gate with the six hundred armed men.

¹⁸When they went into Micah's house and took the images, the ephod and the idols, the priest asked them, "What are you doing?"

¹⁹And they said to him, "Hold your peace; be quiet and come with us.

Is it not better for you to be priest to a tribe and family in Israel than to the household of one man?"

Would the priest now do the right thing or support

something wrong?

²⁰So with gladness of heart the priest took the ephod, the household idols, the carved image, and he went up among the people to be priest of their stolen idols.

²¹So they turned and departed with the goods, the livestock, and little ones in front of them.

²²When they were some distance from Micah's house, Micah gathered his house together and overtook the children of Dan.

²³They called out to the Danites, and they turned around and said to Micah, "What bothers you that you have come with this company?"

²⁴So he said, "You have taken away the gods I made, and you have taken away the priest. Now what more do I have. Yet you say, what bothers you; why have you come?"

What more do you have Micah? Are these idols worth more than God?

²⁵Then the Danites said to Micah, "Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest angry men run at you, and you lose your life, and the life of your household!"

²⁶*They used intimidation to defend their theft; and so the children of Dan went their way.*

And when Micah saw they were too strong, he returned to his house.

²⁷So they took the things Micah had made, and the priest who belonged to him, and to Laish they went, to a people quiet and secure; and they struck them with the sword and burned the city with fire.

²⁸There was no one to deliver, because the city was far from Sidon, and because they had no business with anyone.

It was in the valley that belongs to Beth-rehob. So they built the city and dwelt there.

²⁹They named the city Dan, after Dan their father, the son of Israel.

The name of the city formerly was Laish.

³⁰And the children of Dan set up the carved image.

And Jonathan the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, and his sons were priests of the tribe of Dan until the day that the land was sold into captivity.

³¹So they set up for themselves and worshipped Micah's carved image which he made, all the time the house of God was in Shiloh.

@Yes, it is right to go up to God's house.

Yes it is right to serve the Lord your God.

And right to take what He has given.

Go on, possess your possession..

But what will you set up in your cities?

To whom will you sing your songs?

Let it be to the Lord God of Israel only.

To worship idols is so wrong.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. Pursue God's instructions for your life relentlessly; resist every temptation to replace the God who instructs your life, with idols.

2. You may lose your priests, but never serve gods that you can lose or that may be stolen.
3. Isolation destroys your insulation. It exposes you and makes you a target of the enemy, get connected, stay connected.
4. Your best victory is a loss if you use it to establish your idols.
5. If you practise bondage in your time of freedom you will lose your freedom; you will be taken captive to your practices.
6. There are rules to conquest that will catch up with you if you ignore them; in the spiritual world they expose you just as those who live careless lifestyles.
7. You make your right wrong by mixing the right with wrong; it is time to right your wrong, God does not accept compromise.
8. Religious symbols do not make you righteous; it is not about how tall your cross is; it is about how faithful you are to your God.
9. Your idolatry will lead to your captivity even if you have ministers of God endorsing you.

PRAYER POINTS

- By the power in the blood of Jesus, I shall possess all my possession. Amen.
- O God my Father, help me to serve You without compromise; I declare that I will serve no foreign gods or set up idols in my heart, in Jesus name.
- Lord Jesus, take absolute glory for my successes. Amen.
- By the power in the blood of Jesus, I shake myself loose from every bondage lifestyle, in the name of Jesus.
- I rejoice in my freedom in Christ; I refuse to use my liberty as an occasion to satisfy my flesh, in the name of Jesus.

HE cut her into twelve pieces, one for every tribe; They had cut him to pieces when they destroyed her life. He did not go up to a stranger; he lodged among the twelve; but their behaviour was like Sodom, and this was done in Israel.

JUDGES 19

¹In those days, when there was no king in Israel, there was a certain Levite staying in Mount Ephraim.

And he took for himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.

²But his concubine played the harlot against him, and went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem-judah, and was there for four entire months.

³He was cut up by her actions, but her husband went after her, to speak to her kindly and bring her back. He had his servants and two donkeys with him.

She brought him into her father's house, and when the father of the young woman saw him, he was glad to meet him.

⁴His father-in-law, the woman's father, detained him; he lodged with him for three days. So they ate and drank and he remained there.

⁵Early in the morning on the fourth day, he rose up to depart, but the woman's father said to his son-in-law, "Refresh your heart with a piece of bread, then you may go on your way afterwards."

⁶So they sat down, and the two ate and drank together. Then the woman's father said to him, "Be content to stay all tonight, and let your heart be merry."

⁷When the man stood up to leave, his father-in-law encouraged him; so he lodged there again that night.

⁸He rose up early in the morning on the fifth day to leave, but the woman's father said, "Please comfort your heart." So they delayed until afternoon, and they both ate.

⁹When the man stood up to leave—he and his concubine and his servant—his father-in-law said to him, "The day is getting towards evening; spend the night, make your heart merry. Go on your way tomorrow, so that you may get home."

¹⁰But the man was not willing to spend another night; so he rose and departed, and came opposite Jebus (that is, Jerusalem). He had with him the two donkeys and his concubine.

¹¹They were near to Jebus, and the evening was closing in; and his servant said to him, "Come, let us turn aside and lodge with the Jebusites in their city."

¹²But his master said to him, "No, we will not turn aside into the city of strangers who are not of Israel, we will go to Gibeah."

To rest among the brethren is to feel secure and safe, with men who have God's commandments and reverence His holy name.

¹³So he said to his servant, "Come, let us draw near to one of these places, and spend the night in Ramah or Gibeah."

¹⁴So they passed by and went their way, and they were near Gibeah at sundown, a city belonging to the Benjamites.

¹⁵They turned to go in to lodge in Gibeah. And there he sat in the open city square, for no one took them into his house to spend the night.

¹⁶But then an old man came in from his work in the field.

He was also from Mount Ephraim, but he was staying in Gibeah, among the men of the place who were Benjamites.

¹⁷He looked and saw the man in the open square of the city; and the old man said, "Where are you going? Where do you come from?"

¹⁸So he said to him, "We are coming from Bethlehem-judah and journeying to Mount Ephraim; to the city I am from.

I went to Bethlehem-judah, now I am going to the house of God, but there is no one to take me into his house,

¹⁹although we have straw and provision for our donkeys, and bread and wine for myself, your female servant, and the young man with your servant; there is no lack of anything."

²⁰And the old man said, "Peace be with you! However, I will meet all your needs, only do not lodge in the street tonight."

²¹So he brought him into his house, and gave provision to the donkeys. And they washed their feet and ate and drank there.

²²As they ate and made merry, certain wicked men of the city surrounded the house.

They beat at the door and told the old man, "Bring out the man who came to you."

Could the Levite be hearing this? "That we may know him," they all said.

No, he had not turned in to the heathen; this was a city of Israel!

²³But the old man, the master of the house, went out to them and said,

"My brethren, no! I beg you, do not do this wicked thing!

Seeing this man has come into my house; do not commit this folly.

²⁴"See, here is my daughter, she is a virgin and the man's concubine; let me bring them out now.

Humble them, and do to them as you please; but do not do such a vile thing to this man!"

²⁵But the men would not listen to him, so the man took his concubine and brought her out to them.

They knew her and abused her all night until morning;

and let her go when the day began to break.

²⁶The woman came at dawn and fell down at the door of the old man's house where her husband was, *battered, bashed, barely alive*.

She was there until it was light.

²⁷When her husband rose up in the morning, and opened the door of the house, and went out to go,

there his concubine was, fallen at the door of the house with her hands on the threshold!

²⁸And he said to her, "Get up, let us be going." But no answer came.

He felt sick to his soul, as he placed her on the donkey and went to his place.

He was angered, pained and troubled; he was cut up and confused.

"And I did not go in to a stranger," these thoughts deepened every wound.

²⁹*This was a matter for all Israel; all twelve tribes must decide.*

When he entered his house he cut her, limb by limb, into twelve parts with a razor-sharp knife, and he sent her pieces throughout all the territory of Israel.

³⁰And all Israel who saw it *were grieved, cut up and confused.*
 For they said, "Since the children of Israel came out of Egypt to this day, nothing like this has ever been done."
 They told everyone, "Consider it, seek counsel and speak up."
[@]*They were all cut to the heart; this was evil and all could tell.*
And it was not done among strangers; it was done right here in Israel.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *Delay will detain you in a good place far away from your designation, destination and destiny. Get agitated with delay and just do it.*
2. *It is right to have great expectations of the people of God and to place confidence in those expectations.*
3. *The church is a refuge but many will be left out in the cold, subject to satanic abuse unless believers urgently extend themselves.*
4. *Pray for the church, you will be surprised at how much darkness has invaded the pulpit and the pews.*
5. *If it happens in the world it is happening in church and will until the day of harvest.*
6. *There is nothing more repulsive than when sin is placed on the background of righteousness and the very high holy expectation from the people of God.*
7. *When the people of God adopt the behaviour of Sodom it shakes heaven and earth; we have descended into darkness.*
8. *Desperate times call for desperate measures and demand a determined cooperate response.*
9. *If the church is unable to judge itself, it will be judged...it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*
10. *Divisive sin is calling for a decisive church with an undivided response; that picture is the parting and present prayer of our Lord, the head of the church.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O God my Father, raise up intercessors for the church who will travail day and night for its redemption in this evil age, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Righteous Father, remove every demonic corruption from my life, my household and my community, in Jesus name.
- Let the blood of Jesus sweep the church of every witchcraft activity and wickedness, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Merciful God, let immorality and bloodshed be repulsive to souls of believers; let it move us the way it moves You. Amen.
- Almighty God, let the church rise militantly and stand together against sin in this evil age, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THEY gathered in numbers; they gathered all as one.
They all came together, for evil was done.
Whether among brethren or strangers it will tell,
To see all together is a sign that speaks

well.
To find evil revolting is to have the heart of the Rock;
And a love for His worship when it moves you to act.

JUDGES 20

¹From Dan to Beersheba and from the land of Gilead as well, all the children of Israel gathered as one.
 They gathered at Mizpah before the Lord.
²The leaders of all the people, all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, four hundred thousand footmen who drew the sword, everyone.
³(The children of Benjamin heard that the children of Israel had gone to Mizpah.)
It was because of what this one man did; now he must explain word by word.
 The children of Israel said, "Explain to us, how did this wickedness happen?"
⁴So the Levite, the husband of the murdered woman, answered and said,
 "My concubine and I went to Gibeah of Benjamin to lodge for the night.
⁵"And the men of Gibeah rose against me, and surrounded the house at night because of me. They would have killed me, but instead they raped my concubine until she was dead.
⁶"So I took my concubine, and cut her in twelve pieces, and sent her all over, throughout all Israel, for this lewdness and folly that in Israel was done.
⁷"You are all children of Israel; give your advice and counsel now!"
⁸So all the people arose and answered as one, "None of us will go to his tent, nor will any return to his house;
⁹"but we will do this to Gibeah, we will go up against it by lot.
¹⁰"We will take one tenth of the men of all the tribes in Israel, to make provision for everyone, that when they come to Gibeah in Benjamin, they may repay all the vileness they have done in Israel."
¹¹So all the men of Israel gathered against Gibeah; as one man they were united.
¹²Then the men of Israel *waged war against sin;*
 they sent men throughout Benjamin saying, "What is this wickedness that has occurred among you?"
¹³Deliver up the men, the wicked men in Gibeah, that we may put them to death and purge this evil from Israel!"
 But the children of Benjamin would not listen to what their brethren, the children of Israel, were saying.
¹⁴Instead the children of Benjamin gathered out of the cities to Gibeah, to do battle against Israel.

¹⁵And the children of Benjamin numbered twenty-six thousand men who drew sword, beside the inhabitants of Gibeah, who numbered seven hundred chosen men.

¹⁶And among them also were seven hundred chosen men who were left-handed; each of them could sling stones at a hair breadth, and they would never miss.

¹⁷Now, besides Benjamin, the men of Israel numbered four hundred thousand men who drew sword; all of them were men of war.

¹⁸Then the children of Israel arose and went up to the house of God, to ask counsel of the Lord.

They said, "Which of us shall go first to battle against the children of Benjamin?"

The Lord said, "Judah shall go up first."

¹⁹So the children of Israel rose in the morning and camped against Gibeah.

²⁰And the men of Israel went out to battle with Benjamin, and they entered battle to fight them at Gibeah.

²¹The children of Benjamin came out of Gibeah, and struck down twenty-two thousand men of Israel.

²²And the men of Israel encouraged themselves, and formed the battle formation at the place they had entered battle the first day.

²³Then together the children of Israel went up, and until evening they wept before the Lord; and they asked counsel of the Lord, saying, "Shall we go up against the children of Benjamin, our brother?"

And the Lord said, "Go up against him."

²⁴So once again, on the second day, the children of Israel came up against Benjamin.

²⁵And Benjamin went out against them from Gibeah on the second day and struck down eighteen thousand more of the children of Israel who drew the sword.

²⁶Then all the children of Israel, that is, all the people, went up and came to the house of God and wept.

They sat before the Lord then, and until evening they fasted;

and they offered burnt offerings and peace offering before the Lord for themselves.

²⁷So the children of Israel inquired of the Lord (for the ark of the covenant was there in those days).

²⁸And Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron stood before it in those days), and they enquired of God once more,

"Shall I still go up to battle against the children of my brother Benjamin, or cease?"

And the Lord said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand."

@They lost thousands in battle but they battled on to win.

Yes! Have you yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin?

They gathered once more against Gibeah, this time with a plan.

²⁹Israel set men in ambush all around the city

with clear instructions.

³⁰And the children of Israel went out against the children of Benjamin on the third day, and as at other times they put themselves in battle array.

³¹So Benjamin came out against them and from the city they were drawn.

They began to strike down and to kill some of the people, just like the other times.

They struck, in the highways (one of which goes up to Bethel and the other to Gibeah) and in the field, about thirty men of Israel.

³²And the children of Benjamin said, "They are defeated before us as at the first."

But Israel said, "Let us flee and so draw them from the city to the highways."

³³Then all the men of Israel rose up from their place and fought against them at Baal-tamar. Then the men that Israel had in ambush came out of their hiding in the plain of Geba.

³⁴And the ten thousand chosen men of Israel came against Gibeah, and the battle was fierce.

But Benjamin did not know that destruction was upon them.

³⁵The Lord struck Benjamin before Israel.

And Israel destroyed twenty-five thousand, one hundred men of Benjamin that day; all that drew the sword.

³⁶So the children of Benjamin saw they were defeated. The men of Benjamin gave place to Israel,

for they had great confidence in those laying in ambush that they set against Gibeah.

³⁷The men in ambush quickly rushed upon Gibeah and spread out and struck the entire city with the sword.

³⁸Now the men of Israel and those in ambush, had agreed this sign,

that they should make a great flame from the city, and let a great cloud of smoke rise,

³⁹at which signal the men of Israel would turn in battle.

And Benjamin had began to strike and kill about thirty of the men of Israel.

For they said, "They are defeated before us in the battle as before."

⁴⁰But when the cloud began to rise from the city in a pillar of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them, and behold; the entire city was going up in smoke rising up to heaven.

⁴¹And when Israel turned back, the men of Benjamin were amazed,

for they saw the evil coming on them.

⁴²Therefore they turned their backs before Israel that day and went in the direction of the wilderness;

but the battle overtook them, and they destroyed those who came out of the city in their midst.

⁴³They surrounded the Benjamites, and easily trampled them down,

as far as before Gibeah and towards the rising

of the sun.

44Eighteen thousand men fell of Benjamin, all men of valor.

45They then turned and fled towards the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon; and they struck down five thousand of them in the highways.

They pursued them relentlessly to Gidom, and struck down two thousand more.

46So there fell of Benjamin that day, a total of twenty-five thousand men, all men of valor, who drew the sword.

47But to the rock of Rimmon towards the wilderness, six hundred men fled. They remained in the rock of Rimmon four months.

48And the men of Israel turned back against the children of Benjamin, and struck them down with the edge of the sword—every man of every city, and the beasts, and all who were found.

They also set fire to all the cities they came to—a total victory to win; for they had resisted unto blood as they strove in this war against sin.

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *O for the days when the people of God will find sin so repulsive that they are moved in determination to stamp it out.*
2. *Heaven stands at attention when the church rises as one army against sin.*
3. *Sin must unite the church or it will divide the church.*
4. *Sin within the body of Christ requires decisive resolve of the body as a unit to fight and dispose of it.*
5. *Harboring and defending sin is very expensive; it is a total loss even when it appears you are winning.*
6. *If it is against sin, then resist, even unto blood; Jesus poured His out.*
7. *Failure does not mean you have not heard from God, refine your strategies, keep seeking, keep pressing.*
8. *God gives you complete victory, search your heart to search His heart before you surge forward.*
9. *No one is qualified to lay a sword or lift up a voice against his brother without searching himself first.*
10. *God may give you the victory but retain the timing until you sincerely search your heart and find His.*
11. *There is a price to pay to fight sin measured in time, resources and lives; the battle is real; there is no deserting or drawing back.*
12. *The loss of lives on the battlefield does not eliminate God from the picture; it hurts but keep pressing.*
13. *Complacency is the courier of your defeat in any arena.*
14. *Never be fooled by temporary hype; sin will always catch up with you; it is the devastating type.*

PRAYER POINTS

- O God my Father, raise up intercessors for the church, who will travail day and night for its

redemption in this evil age, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

- O God, our Redeemer, let sin, immorality and bloodshed be always repulsive to our souls, and let it move us as it moves You, in the precious name of Jesus Christ.
- O Lord of hosts, give us resilience unto death against the stubborn enemy of sin, and help us not to count our lives more important than the life of Your Son, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Father God, unite the church for an effective response in these end times as sin becomes more organized and institutionalized, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Let the fire of the Lord burn against witchcraft among believers, in the name of Jesus.

**DESTROY the evil but hang on to the friend;
Deliver the brother when the evil ends.
The price of sin is indeed a great cost,
But it is never God’s will that any be lost.**

JUDGES 21

1And all Israel had sworn an oath at Mizpah at that time, saying,

“None of us shall give our daughters to Benjamin as wife.”

2The people came to the house of God and remained there before God until evening. And they all lifted up their voices and wept bitterly,

3saying, “O Lord God of Israel, why has this come to pass this day in Israel, that today a tribe is missing in Israel?”

They were before the Lord until evening, for now that the evil had ended

they were grieved for their brother; they were bitterly distressed.

4In the morning they rose up early and built an altar there, and on it they offered burnt and peace offerings.

5And the children of Israel asked, “Who is there among all the tribes of Israel who did not come to battle with the congregation of the Lord?”

For they had made a great oath concerning anyone who had not come up to Mizpah, saying, “He shall surely be put to death.”

6And for the children of Benjamin, their brother Israel grieved and sorrowed, saying, “There is one tribe cut off from Israel this day!

7“What shall we do for wives for those who remain, since we have sworn to the Lord we will not give them our daughters as wives?”

8And they said, “Who did not come up with us to Mizpah among the tribes of Israel?”

They realized that from Jabesh-gilead, no one had come to the camp of the congregation.

9For the people were numbered, and from the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead no one was present.

10So the congregation sent out twelve thou-

sand of their most valiant men, and commanded them,

“Go and smite Jabesh-gilead with the sword, including women and children.

¹¹“And you shall destroy every male and every woman who have been with a man intimately.”

¹²Among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead they found four hundred young virgins who knew no man intimately; and they brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

¹³Then the entire congregation sent them to the children of Benjamin who were at the rock of Rimmon, isolated in defeat, and they spoke to them words of peace.

¹⁴So Benjamin returned at that time and they gave them the women there.

The sin was destroyed, but true brethren still cared

They gave them the women of Jabesh-gilead whom they had saved alive, but they were not enough for them all to have a wife.

¹⁵And the people grieved for Benjamin, because the Lord had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

¹⁶And the elders of the congregation said, “What shall we do for wives for those of Benjamin who remain, since the women of Benjamin have been destroyed?”

¹⁷And they said, “There must be an inheritance for those remaining of Benjamin, that a tribe is not destroyed from Israel.

¹⁸“But we may not give them wives of our daughters, for the children of Israel have sworn an oath before the Lord, saying, ‘He who gives a wife to Benjamin is cursed.’”

¹⁹And they said, “Behold, there is an annual feast of the Lord in Shiloh, which is north of Bethel,

east of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah.”

²⁰So they commanded Benjamin, saying, “Go, lie in wait in the vineyards;

²¹“and watch; and when the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance, come out of the vineyards, and each man catch a wife for himself from the daughters of Shiloh; then take her and go to the land of Benjamin.

²²“And when their fathers or their brothers come to us to complain, we will cover you and say to them, ‘Be kind to them for our sakes, for we did not reserve a wife for any of them in war;

for it is not as though you gave the women to them, so you are not guilty of your oath.”

²³And the children of Benjamin did this;

they caught enough wives for their numbers of the women who danced.

Then they returned to their inheritance, and rebuilt the cities and dwelt in them.

²⁴*A brother was restored; and so the children of Israel departed from there.*

Every man returned to his tribe and family; they went out, every man to his inheritance, *for the battle was now truly won.*

²⁵*“Only when the evil is destroyed and the brother is saved*

should men of God find rest; only then can true victory be claimed.

²⁵There was no king in Israel in those days, every man did what was right in his own eyes; *but in the eyes of all Israel, this was the only way that was right.*

CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *You revolt against the cross if you remain absent from the fight against sin. Jesus takes absenteeism personally. (I was in prison, hungry, thirsty... he who does not gather with me scatters.)*
2. *We fight against sin with all our passion; we love sinners with all our hearts.*
3. *When a brother is in sin the heart of the righteous grieves, and the spirit of the righteous intercedes for restoration.*
4. *We judge ourselves as a body, but we are called to love the brethren not to judge.*
5. *We are not complete if one is missing; ask your physical body for a demonstration.*
6. *What qualifies us to reach sinners if we are losing our own? How genuine is our passion for sinners if we are dispassionate about absent, falling and fallen brothers and sisters?*
7. *You can reach them with love.*
8. *It is more compassionate to restore fallen brethren than to convert a dissident. Compassion starts close to your heart, but it must extend beyond.*
9. *The same principle Israel adopted applies to all, ‘save them by whatever means possible’.*
10. *The motto of believers for fallen brethren is ‘No rest until restoration.’*

PRAYER POINTS

- O God of love, perfect our love for the church even as You have demonstrated Your perfect love for her, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Father God, give us a heart for our brothers and sisters in Christ and a tenacious resolve not to allow any of them to fall by the way, in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Tender loving, merciful Father, let the members of the church receive divine agitation now to go after every member of the flock missing from among us. Amen.
- Shepherd of our souls, the one stray sheep is important to You; let him, let her, be important to us also. Amen.
- O God our Father, give us discernment to understand when something is going wrong with those among us and the wisdom to effect the right responses, in the awesome name of Jesus Christ. Amen.