

BIBLICALLY PARENTING THE MATURING CHILD

Part III: Letting GOD When God MIGHT SEEM To Be Leading Our Maturing Children (Gideon and Joash - Judges 6-7)

I. Introduction

- A. "God has no grandchildren!" We love to use statements like this that emphasize the need for our children **themselves** to receive Christ as Savior. They **themselves** must believe and follow the Lord in their lives.
- B. Yet, **WHEN** maturing children start to head down paths that **differ** from what their *parents* would take, and the parents are **NOT sure** if those paths are God's will, what are the parents to **DO** about it, and **why**?
- C. Gideon faced God's call to do what his family, father and community would not do! However, his father, Joash was to **let GOD** take the reins with Gideon in faith that **GOD** would lead **HIM** well, and we view that interaction between Joash and Gideon for insight in our similar situations for edification (as follows):

II. Letting GOD when God MIGHT SEEM To Be Leading Our Maturing Children, Gideon and Joash.

- A. God led Gideon to do what his family, community and father would **NOT** do, Judges 6:11-30:
 1. Gideon's station in life did not humanly prepare him well to lead Israel into a new direction: (a) he belonged to the tribe of Manasseh that was a less blessed tribe than was its relative tribe in Ephraim, the other tribe that descended from Joseph, Judges 6:15b with Gen. 48:17-19; (b) Gideon's family was one of the least significant families in the area, and (c) he was the youngest son in that family, making him the least significant of his father's sons and thus the least likely to take new leadership, Jud. 6:15b.
 2. Yet, God called Gideon to free Israel from domination by the Midianites, Judges 6:11-12.
 3. God proved Gideon would be able to lead Israel well regardless of his low self esteem (6:14f); God's Angel **supernaturally** lit a fire to the sacrifice Gideon made (6:17-22), signifying **God** had accepted Gideon's **sacrifice and Gideon**, and that **God** would give him success, Ryr. St. Bib., KJV, fn. to 6:21.
 4. Once Gideon was convinced God would use him in leadership, God had him do a very inflammatory act - - destroy his father's idol altars and offer a favored animal on the spot unto the Lord, Jud. 6:25-26!
 5. Struggling with what he felt could be severe repercussions from his father, family and community, and that in view of his own low estate as the youngest son, Gideon obeyed the Lord's command, but he did so at **night** to minimize facing lethal conflict with others in the community, Judges 6:27!
- B. Gideon's father was pressured by the community to punish Gideon, but chose to leave Gideon up to God to handle since he recognized Gideon's **actions** revealed he **might** have been **led of God**, Judges 6:30-32:
 1. Gideon's father, Joash was strongly urged by fellow community leaders to execute Gideon for his unusually inflammatory act of destroying his own father's idols and idolatrous altar, Judges 6:30.
 2. Yet, Joash knew (a) Gideon's deed was very uncharacteristic with his usual timidity as the youngest son; besides, (b) Gideon had done his deed at **night**, so he exhibited concern for the repercussions of his deed, leaving Joash evidence that Gideon's deed was sponsored by a Force **outside of** his son!
 3. Accordingly, Joash left Gideon alone, giving a chance for what had **DRIVEN** him to **DO** his unusual deed to reveal **Itself** or **HIMSELF**: Joash stated that if Baal was the true God, he would slay Gideon for his deed, but if Israel's Jahweh was the true God, nothing would happen to Gideon, Judges 6:31!
- C. For giving God and Gideon room to follow up on Gideon's act, Joash learned that not only was Jahweh the true God, but that He was **INDEED leading Gideon**, for Gideon was then used of God to deliver Israel from the Midianites and their hordes of the **Amalekites** and **eastern peoples**, Judges 6:33-7:25!

Lesson: Since Joash was **NOT SURE** of the **WILL** of the **TRUE GOD**, or **EVEN WHO WAS that TRUE GOD**, when Gideon stepped out to do what Joash would normally deeply oppose, the **WAY** Gideon did so **SIGNALLED** to his father that **GIDEON** was acting **NOT** out of **SPITE**, but of **DEEP CONVICTION**: accordingly, Joash gave **ROOM** for the **SOURCE** of Gideon's **CONVICTION** to **REVEAL** **Itself** or **Himself**, and that gave room for **GOD'S WILL** to be accomplished!

Application: (1) When our maturing children take steps that **WE KNOW CLEARLY** obey or disobey Scripture, we can respond accordingly. (2) Yet, if they take a path that **WE** might **NOT** take, but which **BY THEIR BEHAVIOR** indicates **GOD** could **POSSIBLY BE BEHIND IT**, we should (a) give **GOD ROOM** so that **HIS WILL** can be made **CLEAR**, and (b) **THEN** we can respond, cf. 1 Timothy 5:22-25.