

MADE FOR THIS: IS THIS ALL THERE IS?

Scripture used: [Judges 6:25-27 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon gave us our second powerful sermon of the new year, digging deeper into the story of Gideon. We re-enter the story at a critical moment. The Israelites were being invaded constantly by their neighbors. For seven years they had been subject to attacks that destroyed their crops and left many dead. Gideon asked himself the same questions that many of us have been asking ourselves during these difficult times: Is this all there is? Am I meant for something more? God had an answer for Gideon, and sent an angel to speak to him. The angel instructed Gideon to tear down the altar of Baal and the Asherah pole, using the remnants to build a suitable altar for sacrifices to the one true God. In other words, Gideon was told to rebuild his world with God at the center. The story of world-renowned pastor Chip Ingram parallels Gideon. Raised in a strict home, Pastor Chip applied his self-discipline and work ethic to get the prettiest girl in school, secure a basketball scholarship to college, and graduate with academic honors. On graduation night, Pastor Chip was surprised by how empty he felt. Achieving goals did not satisfy some deeper spiritual hunger. He ended up at a Christian camp over the summer, where he opened a Bible to [Romans Chapter 12](#). Paul's writings transformed his world, and he left that camp as a Jesus follower who, like Gideon, rebuilt his life around God by using the talents that had previously been focused on selfish, worldly goals. It turns out that yes, there is more to life. We are meant to live for God, to be in relationship with Him, and to place everything else in its proper place.

KEY POINTS

1. **God speaks to us through others.** An angel came to speak to Gideon. Pastor Hurmon was told that he would be a preacher by a complete stranger at a gas station in the middle of nowhere. Pastor Chip accepted Jesus after hearing someone at camp read [Revelations 3:20 \(NIV\)](#). These are three very different examples of God speaking to people. Think about your own life. Through whom is God speaking to you? Are you listening?
2. **Following God requires trust.** Belief is one thing. Action is another. Following God is how we actualize our belief in Him. This can be scary, even dangerous. Gideon destroyed the altars and shrines of other gods at night because he was afraid of what they would do. He was able to push forward, though, knowing that he was made for something bigger, something special, as a part of God's plan to redeem the world.
3. **We can rebuild our lives with God at the center.** Whatever is at the center of our lives, it can be turned toward God's purposes. We can repurpose every aspect of life to be in service of God. Consider [Ephesians 1:3-6 \(MSG\)](#): God Himself "took pleasure" in planning "to adopt us into His family through Jesus Christ." Why would we put anything at the center of our lives besides God? What could compare to an all-powerful, all-knowing God who loves us unconditionally?

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - A paradigm is a set of ideals and behaviors. It is the framework for everything we think and do in our lives. Many of us have a paradigm that is centered on something other than God. It might be high performance, or power, or money, or academic accomplishment. These are all worthy aspects of life, but they become dangerous when they take the central place that rightfully belongs to God. What is your current paradigm?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Gideon was told by God to destroy the old idols and build a new temple in their place. That was a paradigm shift. Pastor Chip was led to a career in the ministry using the work ethic he was taught to succeed in school and sports. That was another paradigm shift. Each of us has qualities that can and should be used to serve God. What are the "materials" or resources that God has given to you that are important in your life? Is there a difference when they are used to fulfill your own desires versus fulfilling God's purposes? Reflect on the choices you have about how to use your time, talent, and treasure in a way that is truly meaningful.
- 3) **DO** - Turn to God in prayer and affirm a new paradigm by affirming "Jesus, I trust you with my whole life. From this point forward I will follow you!" If you feel led to dive deeper, read Pastor Chip's book on the topic [True Spirituality: Becoming a Romans 12 Christian](#). See you next Sunday!