

God Uses Imperfect People

Judges 3:12-30

Limitations and feelings of inadequacy can take our eyes off the goal of growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ and being used mightily by God.

The book of Judges is a bleak time in the history of Israel.

In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.
Judges 17:6 (New American Standard Bible)

The book of Judges reveals the cycle of sin:

- Stage 1: [Apostasy](#)
- Stage 2: [Servitude](#) – God’s judgment
- Stage 3: Repentance and [Salvation](#)

God raised up a deliverer named Ehud. Three things we can learn from Ehud to overcome limitations and experience victory:

➤ #1. DON'T BE AFRAID TO [CONFRONT THE ENEMY](#).

Now the sons of Israel again 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 the sight of the LORD. ¹³And he gathered to himself the sons of Ammon and Amalek; and he went and defeated Israel, and they possessed the city of the palm trees. ¹⁴The sons of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. ¹⁵But when the sons of Israel cried to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for them, Ehud the son of Gera, the Benjamite, a left-handed man. And the sons of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab. Judges 3:12-15 (NASB)

- Sin, left unchecked in our lives, can grow to an obese state.
- We have an enemy in our life: [the Devil](#).

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8 (New International Version)

- Sin imprisons us; but, when we confess our sins, [Jesus Christ](#) sets us free.
(See Romans 6:23)

➤ #2. DON'T FOCUS ON [YOUR WEAKNESSES](#).

- “Left-handed” – literally: [“hindered in the right hand”](#)
- Principle: Nothing is a problem for God, but if we continue to object He will let someone else do it.

He grew up like a small plant before the LORD, like a root growing in a dry land. He had no special beauty or form to make us notice him; there was nothing in his appearance to make us desire him. ³He was hated and rejected by people. He had much pain and suffering. People would not even look at him. He was hated, and we didn't even notice him. Isaiah 53:2-3 (New Century Version)

- Principle: God cares about our [present faith](#), not our [past failures](#)!

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 1 Corinthians 1:27 (NIV)

- God will take you, with all your imperfections, and use you for His glory!

Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. 2 Corinthians 12:9 (New Living Translation)

➤ #3. TRUST IN [GOD'S RESOURCES](#).

Ehud came to him while he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, “I have a message from God for you.” . . . Judges 3:20 (NASB)

He said to them, “Pursue them, for the LORD has given your enemies the Moabites into your hands.” So they went down after him and seized the fords of the Jordan opposite Moab, and did not allow anyone to cross. Judges 3:28 (NASB)

- Principle: Victory comes from [seeking](#) God’s guidance, [trusting](#) His promises and [obeying](#) His instructions.

We don't have the right to claim that we have done anything on our own. God gives us what it takes to do all that we do.
2 Corinthians 3:5 (Contemporary English Version)