

THE POWER OF ONE

TEXT: (Romans 5:12, 15, NIV)

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men...

¹⁵ For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

I. ABRAHAM, LOOK AT THE STARS

1. "The LORD had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing'" (Genesis 12:1-2, NIV).
2. "Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev" (Genesis 12:9, NIV).

A. The Call of God

1. "He took him outside and said, 'Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.' Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be'" (Genesis 15:5, NIV).

B. The Promises of God

1. "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ" (II Corinthians 1:20, NIV).

II. GIDEON, O MIGHTY WARRIOR

A. Israel Had Fallen Back into Apostasy

1. "Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites" (Judges 6:1, NIV).
2. "The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, 'The LORD is with you, mighty warrior'" (Judges 6:11-12).
3. "'But Lord,' Gideon asked, 'how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family'" (Judges 6:15, NIV).
4. "Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. 'I had a dream,' he was saying. 'A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.'
His friend responded, 'This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.'
When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped God. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, 'Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands'" (Judges 7:13-15, NIV).

B. God Is Looking for "One" Who Will Heed the Call

1. "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35, NIV).