A. Confront it (vs. 9):

1. **Midianites and Amalekites** – This enemy came in full force and were ‘numerous like locust’ and well equipped (Judges 7:12).
   
   a) Compared with the three hundred men in Gideon’s army, the Midianites and their allies seemed to be an innumerable host. They are here likened to an army of grasshoppers that invades an area, devours all the vegetation, and leaves desolation in its wake. [[1]]

2. **300 hundred men** – God uses our ability (Gideon a valiant warrior; Judges 6:12) but only requires our faith (Gideon’s men had trumpets, empty pitches, and torches).

3. **It came about; To be** – God patiently matures us (6:11-18, 25-27, 36-40; 7:2-8) but He never removes our challenges or obstacles He plans to guide us through.

4. **The Lord said** – No matter how powerful the obstacles may seem and how impossible they may seem to overcome the Lord still has the power and authority to accomplish His purposes. What God says remains forever.

5. **Arise; To establish** – When God is ready He demands obedience.

6. **Given you** – God completely and generously handed over the Midianites into the hands of Gideon before he attacked and defeated them. Notice with the people still idol worshippers God placed the Midianites in Gideon’s hands not the nation of Israel. Rahab teaches that God had done the same thing when they were about to enter the Promise Land but a lack of obedience, because of a lack of faith, turned their victory to their own defeat (Joshua 2::11).

7. **Hand** – God is going to place the Midianites under the authority of Gideon. He will have the responsibility of war against them and full control as to what to do with them once he defeats them.

B. Be Willing to Grow (vs. 10-14):

1. **Are afraid** – God knew that Gideon was still nervous and anxious about fighting the Midianites especially after God reduced his fighting men from 32,000 to 300 men and is not requiring weapons.

   a) **Gideon struggled with fear (6:17, 23, 27, 36-40; 10 - some of the men were afraid as well but were not used 7:3).**

2. **Go down** – Because of Gideon’s intimidation of the Midianites God commands him to do the one thing Gideon is quick to do and that is to obey Him with the help of his friends.

3. **Go down** – God commands Gideon to function within his ability by designing a
military strategy to secretly enter the Midian camp. He was first asked to obey God within his comfort zone.

4. You will hear – God wanted Gideon to listen to the two Midianite soldiers with a heart to believe everything they were saying. This word means to listen with an understanding heart in order to acquire a full knowledge of what is going on.

5. Your hand will be strengthened - Gideon will overcome his anxiety and remain steadfast in accomplishing God’s vision no matter how overwhelming the obstacles. He would be able to fight with a stubborn heart because he becomes convinced, hearing from the Midianites themselves, that God has given him authority over them. Even though God told him He would provide him victory over the Midianites God knew that if Gideon heard it from someone else it would strengthen his faith and solidify his resolve to fight.

   a) God view Gideon as a valiant warrior (6:12). God did not have to teach Gideon how to fight in battle because God called him a valiant warrior. To get him to go to battle was what God had to teach him.

6. Midianites and Amalekites – God strengthen Gideon’s faith, but He did not reduce or remove the challenge.

7. Lying in the valley – The text seems to imply by the Midianites lying in the field (the word means to fall dead as a result of battle) was a vivid display of their defeat.

   a) They came – God organized the meeting. God told Gideon when to go, where to go, who would be given the dream, where they would be to tell the dream and interpret the dream and organized all of it coming together.

C. Faith Knocks Out Fear (vs. 15):

1. It came about – What is about to take place is timeless. It relates to everyone who faces the same issues.

2. It came about – When faith has been nurtured action is always required (James 2:14-26).

3. Heard – Gideon listened with a heart to come to a full understanding so that he can do what he had already decided to do.

4. The account – Gideon came to a full understanding of all God was saying to Him.

5. Worship – A full understanding of all that God is going to do leads Gideon to prostrate himself before God providing God total respect. This is a pattern that Gideon has in his life (6:18; 22-24).

6. Worship – Gideon, upon hearing the interpretation of the dream surrenders himself completely to God.

   a) Gideon was quick to worship God; it is not recorded that he ever worshipped idols (6:18; 22-24; 7:15).

7. Turn away – Gideon made a decisive decision to prepare for battle and attack with the 300 men God had given him.

8. Turn away – Faith has finally won because fear has been caged.

9. Said – What Gideon is saying he constantly repeats with no end in sight.

10. Arise; To establish – Gideon takes leadership of his army and commands his men; get up with a determination to defeat the Midianites and Amalekites.
a) God took a valiant warrior, who did not seem to have an idol (it was his father’s idol and the idol of the people that he tore down – his father did not seem to be totally committed to his idol. It seems like the people were more than he was), help him to overcome his fear so that his ability to fight gets the job done.

b) While God had guaranteed victory, Gideon still had to trust Him for what had not yet happened. He needed to demonstrate his faith in God by actually going to war and securing the outcome God had promised. God guarantees us victory (Romans 8:37; Phil.4:13; 1 John 4:4) but He still demands that we live by faith (Hebrews 11:6).

11. The Lord – The Lord has all power and authority, so victory is already won.
12. Hand – God is going to place the Midianites under the authority and in the control of Gideon. He will have the responsibility of war against them but full control over the outcome because the Lord reigns when His people trust Him; turn from their idols and worship Him only.

a) When God is going to do something great all that He requires of us is faith and faithfulness (Hebrews 11).

13. Inspired faith sees no obstacles only a need to obey God.

---