

“Exhausted But I Press”

KJV Judges 8:4 And Gideon came to Jordan, and passed over, he, and the three hundred men that were with him, faint, yet pursuing them.
5 And he said unto the men of Succoth, Give, I pray you, loaves of bread unto the people that follow me; for they be faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian.

The diagnosis and the prognosis!

Gideon and his 300 soldiers had just gone to battle against an army of about 135K soldiers.

Only 15K were left after 120K had been killed. (**verse 10**)

Gideon and his 300 men are exhausted from the battle but still pursuing the Midianite kings Zebah (**Ze-bach**) and Zalmunna (**Zal-moon-naw**).

He comes to his brothers in Succoth of the tribe of Gad but they refuse to give him food so they can finish the battle—they **press on exhausted**.

They come to Penuel another city in Gad, they also refuse to give them food but they continue **exhausted yet pursuing**.

- Sometimes fighting the good fight of faith can lead to **exhaustion** we can get worn out serving God and loving people.

Exhaustion is simply **“being drained of strength”!**

Here are a few examples of the warfare that can drain our strength:

Warfare in marriages, warfare in our finances, warfare in our bodies, warfare on our jobs and warfare in society!

Exhaustion is a process that happens over time, we start out strong and excited but something happens over time that wears us down.

KJV Galatians 5:7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

Paul tells the church in Galatia, you started out running well—what happened?

Your marriage—remember how beautiful the ceremony was, the beautiful gown you wore, how long you took to put your makeup on.

Remember the bachelor party, how much money you spent on the banquet hall.

Everything was so beautiful in the beginning, now you're exhausted and ready to quit!

But this is the time you press! Exhausted but you must press on!

We all get exhausted from time to time if we're actively building The Kingdom—there will be opposition, hindrances and obstacles.

But we've got to make up our minds at the beginning—we're **not going to quit, we're exhausted but going to press on!**

NAS Judges 8:10 Now Zebach and Zalmoon-naw were in Karkor, and their armies with them, about 15,000 men, all who were left of the entire army of the sons of the east; for the fallen were 120,000 swordsmen.

The LORD with Gideon and 300 men killed 120,000 soldiers!

They defeated an army 40 times their size!

Judges 8:11 And Gideon went up by the way of those who lived in tents on the east of Nobah and Jogbehah, and attacked the camp, when the camp was unsuspecting.

12 Zebah and Zalmunna, the two kings of Midian, fled, but he pursued them and captured them, routing their entire army.

Gideon then goes back to Succoth and Penuel the cities that wouldn't give him and his men food and water and presents the two kings and then punishes them as he said he would.

After that Gideon turns his attention to the two kings of Midian.

*Judges 8:18-21 Then he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, "What kind of men were they whom you killed at Tabor?" And they said, "They were like you, **each one resembling the son of a king.**"*

19 Gideon replied, "Those were my brothers, the sons of my own mother. As surely as the LORD lives, if you had spared their lives, I would not kill you.

20 Turning to Jether, his oldest son, he said, "Kill them!" But Jether did not draw his sword, because he was only a boy and was afraid.

*21 Zebah and Zalmunna said, "Come, do it yourself. **'As is the man, so is his strength.'**" So Gideon stepped forward and killed them, and took the ornaments off their camels' necks.*

It was considered an honor for Gideon's young son to avenge those who killed his family members—but he wasn't mentally strong enough.

Remember when God first chose Gideon?

Remember what God said to Gideon?

"Go with the strength you have and save Israel from the power of Midian. It is I who send you." (Judges 6:14)

Gideon's strength came from the years he struggled in fear, poverty and hopelessness!

- **Gideon's strength came from the years he had to work (3) jobs just to feed his family.**
- **Gideon's strength came from the years he watched people come into his neighborhood and take the resources and leave them with nothing.**
- **Gideon's strength came from watching single mothers raise their children in fear of violence.**
- **Gideon's strength came from years of watching his community fall apart around him.**

My brothers and sisters—sometimes our strength comes from what we've gone through—the years of hurt, pain and disappointment!

Years and years dealing with some of the same problems!

Gideon had been through too much not to finish what he started!

Gideon and his 300 men crossed the Jordan River and traveled over 100 miles chasing after Zebah, Zalmuuna and 15,000 soldiers!

I may be exhausted but I'm not too tired to finish my assignment—give me a sword and I'll get it done!

My brothers and sisters **you may be exhausted** but take up your sword!

There are **Zebach's and Zalmoon-naws** in your future!

Zebach & Zalmuna are enemies of your future!

Remember they came and stole your harvest, killed your family and ruined your community!

