

You Can Do It Part 2

Sermon Title: **You Can Do It Part 2**

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Thank you for joining us at Brothers Of The Word because brother you need the word!
We welcome all of you joining us today at Brothers Of The Word, those of you joining us online and those of you joining us live by television, we are delighted to have you tune in and worship with us today.

I would like to read just a little humor. "I think I deserve a raise" the man said to his boss. You know there are three other companies after me. "Is that right?" asked the manager. "What other companies are after you?" The electric company, the phone company and the gas company.

Today we are doing part two of something we started last week entitled: You Can Do It. We are studying the fascinating life of one of the great warriors in the Old Testament. The life of Gideon. There are some great lives that we will be studying and taking a look at. Gleaning from their experience...their life experience and realizing their lives serve as an example for us. An example for us to learn from. When God dealt with these great characters of the bible, it was not merely for their sake, but it was for our admonition as well. For our sake, to learn, to gain, to glean from their lives. I have just been meditating on the life of Gideon. There is something special about Gideon. There is something about his life that we learn and we gain from him. How God would take this coward out of a hole and do something great with him. That speaks to all of us that we have the ability to do so much more than we realize. That is why we are speaking from the subject: You can do it.

Gideon's story takes place over three chapters: Judges Chapter 6, Judges Chapter 7 and Judges Chapter 8. That pretty much covers the life span of Gideon. His mighty feats, his introduction and his call and his purpose. We read through some text of Judges Chapter 6 verses 11 through 16, but I don't think I will read those today. I pretty much gave you a good synopsis of the background of the story there. So we will just jump right in. I want to share some key ideas I have been distilling from the life of Gideon that speaks to us today. I love to look at accounts in scripture not merely for their historical perspective, but for what do they say to us today. What do they say to us today? God is very proficient using double reference. He can deal with an individual in history, but yet thousands of years later his word speaks clearly and plain to us as well. That is the law of double reference. His word is still with the law of double reference.

When he speaks to a certain person or situation, but it echoes out into eternity and it still speaks to us today. Here are some key ideas I just want to share with you concerning what God did with Gideon and his life. We talked about this first key I did: what God has in mind is always greater than what you think you can do. What God has in mind is always greater than what you think you can do. Gideon didn't think he could do that. Gideon didn't think he could answer that particular call and fulfill that assignment. He held his hands out like: "Lord who am I to go and save your people?" He didn't think he could do it, but God thought that he could do it. God had an assignment for him that he knew he could do. We are talking about you can do it.

What God has in mind is always greater than what you think you can do. If you think you can do it, most times that is not God. If you think you can do it, most times that is not God. God always has something so big that it kind of boggles your mind. You are normally dumbfounded whenever God wants you to do something, so normally there is always a lot of resistance. That is

when you know it is God. God always gives you shoes too big. He will never give you shoes that fit you just right. They are always too big for you. Whatever he has in mind is always greater than what you think you can do. Someone said this and I like this quote. It says: "He who does not attempt to do what he cannot do, will never do all that he can do."

If you don't attempt to do something that you cannot do, you will never do all that you can do. That lets us know we can do more than we think we can do. There are abilities in us that are dormant. There are hidden talents and skills awaiting awakening. They are waiting to be awakened within us. There is untapped potential in us. There is hidden greatness in us! It was in Gideon and he had no clue! The highlight of Gideon's day was trying to see which way the wind was blowing so he could thresh his wheat. He was trying to get his lunch. He was preparing lunch! That was the highlight of his life! How much wheat he could get. He was preparing his lunch. He didn't know he could do anything else. He didn't know he was a mighty leader. He didn't know he was a valiant man. He didn't know he was a mighty warrior! He didn't know that God could use him to save Israel!

God always knows that there is a lot more that you can do than what you realize you can do. That's what Gideon began to speak to me. There are things we don't realize that we can do. God speaks to our potential and according to our God given destiny; according to his power working in us. According to what's possible. According to what he knows is possible for our lives. Here is another key idea I just want to share with you. I just want to pull some key ideas from the life of Gideon and what it speaks to us today. There are some key ideas and things I had never really thought about or seen from the life of Gideon. I'm taking a second look and really being blessed by his life. Here is another key idea from the life of Gideon: God is not limited by our limitations if we stop using them as an excuse.

We are to eliminate the excuses that keep us where we are. Eliminate the excuses that give you permission to not reach your full potential. Eliminate the excuses! There are always wonderful excuses for not being all that you can be. There are always wonderful excuses for not going where you can go. There are always wonderful excuses for not reaching your full potential. Eliminate excuses that keep you where you are. That is a key idea. God is not limited by our limitations when we stop using them as an excuse. I like something that Richard Bach said. He said: "Argue for your limitations and sure enough they are yours." Let me just give you some of the great men and women of the bible and their limitations that they had in their life. Some of them tried to use them as excuses, but that didn't work with God. God had to get them to overcome their own limitations, so that he could do great things in their lives.

God had to get them to overcome their own limitations. Some of them tried to use these limitations as excuses, but that didn't work with God. Your excuses won't fly with God. Your excuses won't work with God. You can jive some people, but you can't jive God. I just want to give you a list of some of the great people in the bible. I want you to hear their limitations and how they had to overcome them and not use them as an excuse; so that they could do wonderful and mighty and glorious and great things that God had in store for them to do.

Notice this: Abraham was old, that was his limitation. He was old. Jacob was insecure. Leah was unattractive. Joseph was abused. Moses stuttered. He had a stuttering problem. Gideon was poor.

Samson was co-dependent. Rahab was immoral. David had an affair and he had family problems. Elijah was suicidal. Jeremiah was depressed. Jonah was disobedient and reluctant. Naomi was a widow. The Samaritan woman had several failed marriages. Zacchaeus was unpopular, people didn't like him. Paul had poor health. Timothy was timid. Peter was impulsive and hot tempered.

This is just a list of the great heroes of the bible and you see that they all had what would be considered limitations in their life that would have prevented them from doing great things for God if they would have used those limitations continually as an excuse. But they had to overcome their own limitations. Argue for your limitations and they are yours. Don't allow excuses and limitations to hinder you. Turn to your neighbor and say: what's your excuse? Someone said: there are a thousand reasons why you can't, but all you need is one reason why you can. All you need is one reason why you can. You can do it.

I have a video clip I want to show. It is about 7 or 8 minutes long. This is a young man who has limitations, but he has a very inspiring story. He didn't let his limitations become an excuse.

[How Do You Get Through Your Day? video from ESPN]

Reporter Tom Rinaldi: How do you get through your day? Make it from one place to another? One task to the next? How do you do it?

Richie Parker: Every step of the way in life there have been people who said that I couldn't do things. Some people said that I couldn't ride a bicycle. Some people said that I couldn't live on my own. Couldn't get a good job and support myself, or I couldn't go to college and graduate. I don't listen too much to people when they tell me I can't do something. There is not a whole lot that is going to stand in my way.

There were a lot of people, when I first started at Hendricks Motorsports, they had no idea what I could do and what I was going to do there. I have guys that I am good friends with now, and they told me that when they heard I was coming and when I first got there, their biggest thing was: what is he going to do?

Tom Rinaldi: Hendricks Motorsports is the most winningest organization in NASCAR. From Jimmy Johnson to Jeff Gordon. To Dale Earnhardt Jr. For any engineer drawn to racing, it is the elite destination. For Richie Parker, it has been a job for the last 8 years. As a vehicle engineer at Hendricks, Parker designs chassis and body components for all four of its race teams. He does all of his design work the way he does most everything...with his feet.

Richie Parker: It is very demanding. When we have someone like Chad Kinowski come back from the racetrack and he says he needs something next week that is going to help him win a race, then no is never the answer.

Tom Rinaldi: Richie Parker was born in May 1983 in a coastal town of Buford, South Carolina. Right away his parents knew something was wrong.

Richie's father: He said that there was an issue, a complication with the baby. I said: what? Naturally, they had to move me to the side and then said the baby didn't have arms. And I just was sort of dumbfounded like...what do you mean?

Tom Rinaldi: Doctors told the Parkers the abnormality was the result of a non-genetic birth defect creating bilateral phocomelia. A limb deficiency.

Richie's mother: I'm thinking: how are we going to get through this? How will he eat? How will he open doors? How will he do just the normal day to day things? Once I saw Richie, there was no question after that.

Richie's father: He was the cutest baby. He was the cutest little boy. After about five minutes, it was: when can I take my kid home. Just give me my kid.

Richie's mother: We wanted his childhood to be as close to any other child's childhood as possible. That was always our attitude: we are going to make it work. We might just do it differently, but it will work.

Richie: There were always things around the house that made it so that I didn't need to ask anybody else for help to do it. That was important to me. I had two parents that from day one tried to make my life as normal as possible, whatever normal is.

Richie's father: The other kids in the neighborhood had bikes. Richie's going to ride a bike. We understood some of the dangers, so we got long handle bars and bent them up and then bent them out from one handle bar to the other. After that, he rode the bike with the kids in the neighborhood and he was just a kid riding his bike.

Tom Rinaldi: As a teenager, Richie's sense of independence found its sharpest focus...in cars.

Richie: I always wanted to drive. I was told by plenty of people that there is a bus in your area, or there are taxi cabs. That is all you need to do, just use these as your transportation. That just wasn't me.

Tom: When he was 15, Richie spotted his dream car. A 1964 Chevy Impala SS. Parker convinced the owner to sell it. 15 years later it is still Richie's ride.

Richie's father: If the bicycle gave him a certain degree of freedom, the car gave him a greater amount of independence and pride. When he is in that car, everybody is on the same level.

Tom: In truth, Richie's entire life has been one remarkable study in engineering. Nearly every task requires ingenuity.

Richie: I don't know that there is a whole lot in life that I can say that I can't do. There are a lot of things that I haven't done yet.

Tom: That attitude carried Richie to his current job at Hendricks.

Richie's work supervisor: I think I had about 20 resumes that I went through before I settled on Richie's. I knew he could do the things that I needed him to do. It was more a question of: How? He sat down and showed me how he works on the computer and how he does his design work. I write with my right hand and you write with your left hand, he happens to write with his feet.

Tom: Parker's initial internship with Hendricks was supposed to last 10 months. 8 years and 5 championships later, he is still here. How do you get through your day? Make it from one place to another? One task to the next? Don't ask Richie Parker, he is already moving on down the road.

Richie: I'm just never satisfied. It's what drives me. I don't know where it comes from. Sometimes it kind of drives me crazy, but it is how I live my life.

[end of video]

Praise God. Turn to your neighbor and say: You can do it! What an inspiring life. Someone who had a limitation, but he didn't argue for his limitation. He didn't make excuses to keep him where he was. This is the whole idea of what God did in the life of Gideon. He expanded his horizon. He expanded his potential. He expanded his capability. God showed Gideon someone he never imagined he could become. He was a coward in a hole throwing up wheat, and yet he became one of the mightiest warriors in all of Israel. Folks, God says to us: You can do it!!!

Praise God, there are just some wonderful ideas that I have never seen before that God says to us through the life of Gideon. They are just ideas that God shows through someone who didn't believe in himself, who didn't realize he had anything going or any possibility. God just wanted to show him the possibilities are unlimited with me. The possibilities are unlimited with me. With God's help there is nothing we can't do. God graces us to do what he calls us to do. It is through God's power, it's through God's might, it's through God's strength that gives us the ability. That gives us the grace to do those things that we in no other terms would be able to do in of ourselves. It is God who comes in and breathes on our potential. He breathes on our potential. He breathes and enlarges who we are and it's a wonderful testimony. There are some powerful things that God reveals to us in the lives of these giants.

They speak to us today if only we would listen. John Maxwell has a book called *Running With Giants*, and the whole premise of his book is in the book of Hebrews. The bible says that we are surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses like a track, and they are in the grand stands. He said all of these great heroes of the bible who are sitting in the grand stands watching us run our laps of life around the track of life. He said what if those great heroes could leave the grand stands and walk down onto the track and run a lap with us. What is it they would say to us? As they would run around the track; run a lap with us.

In this series I am telling you what Gideon would say to you. Don't argue for your limitations! Don't make excuses for your life. What God has for you it is much greater and you can do so much more than you think you can do. I am going to continue to share: what is it Gideon would say to you if he ran around the track of life with you to say from his life. Don't miss the rest of

this series. When we finish that we are going to jump right into Samson, and when we finish that we are going right into King David. Oh my goodness! We are going right into King David. I can't wait to get to King David. What is it that would cause a little runt to run up against a giant? Glory to God! Hallelujah! Praise God!