

#### 4. The hesitant warrior is always hesitant.

Matthew 14:29-31

##### Gentlemen:

- Your insecurities and fear of failure are exceeding your faith in Christ – hesitant.
- Some men are awesome, but your families have almost no evidence of being spiritual.
- God has given you a vision for a business, but you hesitate.

##### Ladies ... Princess warriors:

- In many ways, your warrior is becoming what you think of him.
- In many ways, he will grow into the warrior to the degree you respect him.

*“If I’m good at what I do, it’s because my wife,  
who knows me better than anybody, believes in me.”*

##### ◆ The Warrior will Fail on the Road to Success.

**Proverbs 24:16** “...though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again.”

**Psalm 37:24** “...though he stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.”

##### ◆ The Warrior must Surrender Control to God.

**Judges 6:13a** ‘But sir,’ Gideon replied, ‘if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us?’

- The warrior can’t control the outcome, only the input.
- The victorious warrior wins the war one battle at a time!

##### ◆ The Warrior is Empowered by God for Victory.

- God has given you what it takes to do what He’s called you to do.

**Judges 6:14** “The LORD turned to him and said, ‘Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?’

- Is God sending you?

**2 Peter 1:3** “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”

- Most warriors’ greatest fear is FAILURE.
- Most warriors’ greatest pain is REGRET.

## “DIGGING DEEPER”

For personal or small group study

Week of April 6, 2008

**QUICK REVIEW:** Which point or scripture passage most challenged, confused, or caught your attention in this week’s message? Why?

### TODAY’S FOCUS

1. *Where have all the warriors gone?* How would you define a warrior? How would you define a *spiritual* warrior? Share about someone you know that you believe is a spiritual warrior and why?
2. How was Jesus a warrior? Would you consider Peter in the Bible a warrior? Why or why not? [Matthew 11:27-30; 14:22-34; 16:15-19; John 4:37; 5:30]

Discuss other Biblical characters that you see as spiritual warriors. What made them a warrior?

### GETTING THE POINT

1. Read Judges 6:11-16. How would you describe Gideon at the time God called him a mighty warrior? [v. 12] Can you relate to Gideon?

What did God see in Gideon that motivated Him to give him this label? How do you think God looks at people differently than we do? [Judges 6:27, 34; 8:1-3, 22-23]

2. Every warrior fears failure (at least occasionally). Do you agree with that statement? Why are we so afraid of failure? How does one overcome these fears?

Name some warriors in the Bible that feared failure besides Gideon? [Exodus 3:10-11; 4:1; Joshua 1:5-7; Matthew 14:29-31; Proverbs 24:16]

3. What role do peace and courage play in becoming a spiritual warrior? What obstacles keep us from becoming a spiritual warrior? [Judges 6:14-16, 22-27; John 16:33; Psalm 14:27] Name a time that courage helped you in your life.

### A LOOK INSIDE

1. Do you see yourself as a warrior? What do you need to do to act like the warrior God created you to be? [2 Peter 1:3]

# Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. We sincerely hope you will be especially aware of God's presence as we worship. If this is your first time to worship with us, here is what you can expect:

## Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship, you are free to connect with God in whatever biblical way that expresses your heart's adoration. Some may remain seated, others stand, kneel, clap or lift their hands.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

## Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

## Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

---

We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

{over for sermon notes}

April 6, 2008

Pastor Chris Puccini

### THE WARRIOR

*"God has given you what it takes"*  
Judges 6:11-16

**FOCUS FOR THE DAY ...**"Do you have the heart of a warrior?"

***"The warrior in battle who hesitates ... is the most vulnerable of all"***

**Judges 6:11-12** "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.'"

### - Lessons from Gideon -

#### 1. Gideon was a passive warrior.

**Judges 6:12** "When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, **mighty warrior.**"

• When God looks at a man, he doesn't just see him how he is — He sees what he could become.

**Matthew 16:18**

**Exodus 15:3** "The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name."

**You're created in His image, and part of the characteristics He has given you is the heart of a warrior.**

#### 2. Every warrior has a cause to fight for.

• There's something within you that desires to fight for something that is righteous and true...the innocent...defend honor.

• Without the right cause, instead of being a spiritual warrior, we become a destructive warrior.

#### 3. Every warrior fears failure. (at least occasionally)

• In the middle of the battle ... "Do I have what it takes?"

**Judges 6:15** 'But Lord,' Gideon asked, 'how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.'

• When your fear of failure exceeds your faith in God, you become hesitant.