

- hate, full of jealousy, full of...
- What would you like to see emptied from your jar?
  - What would you allow to be emptied today?
  - What do you suppose the Lord would like to remove?

### **Torches**

- In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire.” (Heb 1:7 NIV)
- For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. (2Ti 1:6 NIV)
- Unauthorized Fire
  - Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command.” (Le 10:1 NIV)
  - Unauthorized, strange, unholy, profane.
- Self-light Fire
  - But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the torches you have set ablaze. This is what you shall receive from my hand: You will lie down in torment. (Isa 50:11 NIV)
  - But if all you’re after is making trouble, playing with fire,  
Go ahead and see where it gets you.  
Set your fires, stir people up, blow on the flames,  
But don’t expect me to just stand there and watch.  
I’ll hold your feet to those flames.  
(Isaiah 50:11 The Message)
- Fresh Fire for Battle
  - No more “playing” with the fire of God.
  - Fresh fire for purifying the vessel
  - Fresh fire for lighting the darkness
  - Fresh fire for empowering the valliant
  - Fresh fire...

## **Armed and Dangerous**

Destiny Christian Church, March 4, 2007

Major David McCann

### **An intolerable situation**

- Judges 6:1-6 – The situation
- Judges 6:7-10 – the people cry out, and God sends a prophet.
  - Reminder of Deliverance from Egypt
  - Encouragement to hope
  - Underlining the sin problem

### **1. The Call of God (Jud. 6:11-16)**

- Gideon, threshing wheat in a Wine Press
  - Cowardice or Wisdom?
  - The angel declares: “The LORD is with you, mighty warrior.”

### **Excuses**

- If the Lord is with me, why do I have all these problems?
- Where are the signs and wonders?
  - This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.” (Heb 2:3-4 NIV)
  - And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well. (Mark 16:17-18 NIVUS)

### **God’s response:**

“Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?” (Jud 6:14 NIV)

- But how...?
  - I come from a poor family.
  - I'm the least in my family.
  - Again God replies : "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."  
(Isa 6:5,8 NIV)

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Ro 8:31 NIV)

### **Can God win the victory over the power of evil in this region?**

- Through a victorious and triumphant Church?
- Through the Destiny Christian Church?
- Through you, and your obedience?

## **2. God's Plan**

- To defeat the enemy in this region.
- To name you a "mighty warrior"?
- Called to participate in his victory plan.
- Nothing we do is insignificant.

### **Reduction of troops (7:1-7)**

- Does God want to reduce the working people of this church to 1% of those in attendance?

### **Judges 7:16-18**

Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside. "Watch me," he told them. "Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon.'" "

### **Strategy and Arms**

- Trumpets
  - Signal to the troops.
  - A call to worship.
  - Metaphor – Prophetic Declaration.

- "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the house of Jacob their sins." (Isa 58:1 NIV)
- Now, brothers, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction? Again, if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. (1Co 14:6, 8-9 NIV)
- What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. (Mt 10:27 NIV)
- "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Lu 4:18-19 NIV)
- I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (Mt 16:19 NIV)
- Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. (Ac 2:18 NIV)

### **Empty Jars**

- But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (2Co 4:7 NIV)
- Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant ... (2Co 3:5-6 NIV)
  - How can you fill a jar that's already full?
  - Full of David?
  - Full of sin, full of my personal hopes and plans, full of