



Your
story
matters.

SEPT 21, 2025

Message Notes



The Benefit of Doubt “Fleeced?”

Pastor Tom Lundeen | Sept 21, 2025

...we're _____ on different people in the Scriptures who struggled with doubt.

But God actually used their doubts to ultimately _____ their faith and not have doubt be what defines them.

Today we're going to focus on someone who is known for his _____ times of doubt, and yet, he's also listed in the *Faith Hall of Fame*.

Gideon's life demonstrates that more often than we may realize, our doubts about God, at their _____, have more to do with our own personal insecurities, dysfunctions, struggles, and weaknesses than anything about God Himself.

Gideon's doubts were based in:

1. His Personal _____

Our personal history...greatly _____ how we see ourselves (note **Judges 6:15**).

Gideon, painfully aware of his heritage, was _____ by his past even when talking to God (just like some of us...)

...we've resigned ourselves to the *losers* column of life and it becomes an _____ of doubt...

2. His _____ Abilities

Gideon didn't give out obvious leadership _____ (note **Judges 6:11b; 6:1-6, 12**).

Note **Judges 6:14-15, 22-23, 27, 36-40; 7:10-11; 8:20**

When dominated by our past and perceived limitations, the question, "How can I...?", becomes a _____...

3. His _____

Note **Judges 6:25-30**

Gideon's doubts were _____ by how others saw him.

The fact is, we can be _____ and consumed by doubts about our reputation (real or perceived).

So can there be benefit to my doubt?

- Gideon's struggles with fear, doubt, and insecurity are the same struggles many of us have in 2025.
- At the root of this struggle is when we try to find our security, identity, and worth in things that can be _____.
- ...we're setting ourselves up for failure, _____, disappointment, and doubts.
- God gave Gideon a _____ identity and perspective (note **Judges 6:12**)...
- ...and He does the same for us in Jesus (_____, *children of God, royal priesthood, holy nation, heirs of God, co-heirs with Jesus...*).
- Gideon discovered his identity, security, and worth was not in himself, or in what he didn't have, or what could be taken away from him, but that his worth and identity was in the _____ and Almighty God who told him who he really was...
- When you know who you really are in Jesus, doubts _____ because we're no longer putting our trust in things that can be taken away or that are temporary.
- In Jesus, we are _____ creations.
- We are more than conquerors.
- We are members of God's _____ family.
- Doubts no longer have to _____ us.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy), get your book and other materials, then make sure to sign up for a small group at GroupLink at any of our campuses.

***App:** Message Notes/Connect Card **Or:** MYRC.LINK/CONNECT



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

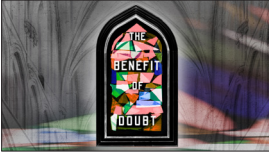
What's something you enjoyed doing when you were younger that you still enjoy today?

1. As a group, explore what you have been discovering from reading Chapters 3 and 4 of *The Benefit of Doubt*.
2. Read **Judges 6** aloud in the group, paying special attention to:
1) What God said about Gideon; 2) What Gideon said about himself; and 3) How Gideon responded to what God said about him. How do Gideon's insecurities and doubts compare with your own?
3. Gideon's personal history affected how he responded to God and saw himself. What from your past impacts how you see yourself and keeps you from believing what God says about you? (See **Judges 6:15**)
4. Gideon had trouble trusting God because he doubted himself. When has your own self-doubt kept you from embracing God's presence or plan for your life? (**Judges 6:14-15, 27; 7:10-11**)
5. Like Gideon, God declares a new identity for Christ followers in the following passages (**Romans 8:16-17, 37-39; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:5; 1 Peter 2:9**). How do these truths about you change the way you view and live your life?
6. To impress this true identity in your mind, focus on **Romans 8:16-17, 37-39; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:5; and 1 Peter 2:9** this week, whether by memorizing, reading, meditating, note cards on your mirror etc. (Try "Wrinkly - Bible Memory," a Bible memorization app.)

WEEKLY READING

*Before you attend your small group, read Chapters 3-4 (pages 43-78) of *The Benefit of Doubt*.*

Not too late to join a small group! Use the GroupFinder at **MYRC.CHURCH/GROUPFINDER!**



The Benefit of Doubt ***“Fleeced?”***

Pastor Tom Lundeen | Sept 21, 2025

...we're focusing on different people in the Scriptures who struggled with doubt. But God actually used their doubts to ultimately deepen their faith and not have doubt be what defines them.

Today we're going to focus on someone who is known for his multiple times of doubt, and yet, he's also listed in the *Faith Hall of Fame*.

Gideon's life demonstrates that more often than we may realize, our doubts about God, at their roots, have more to do with our own personal insecurities, dysfunctions, struggles, and weaknesses than anything about God Himself.

Gideon's doubts were based in:

1. His Personal History

Our personal history...greatly influences how we see ourselves (note **Judges 6:15**).

Gideon, painfully aware of his heritage, was dominated by his past even when talking to God (just like some of us...)

...we've resigned ourselves to the *losers* column of life and it becomes an incubator of doubt...

2. His Limited Abilities

Gideon didn't give out obvious leadership capabilities (note **Judges 6:11b; 6:1-6, 12**).

Note **Judges 6:14-15, 22-23, 27, 36-40; 7:10-11; 8:20**

When dominated by our past and perceived limitations, the question, "How can I...?", becomes a statement...

3. His Reputation

Note **Judges 6:25-30**

Gideon's doubts were fueled by how others saw him.

The fact is, we can be imprisoned and consumed by doubts about our reputation (real or perceived).

So can there be benefit to my doubt?

- Gideon's struggles with fear, doubt, and insecurity are the same struggles many of us have in 2025.
- At the root of this struggle is when we try to find our security, identity, and worth in things that can be taken away...
- ...we're setting ourselves up for failure, bondage, disappointment, and doubts.
- God gave Gideon a new identity and perspective (note **Judges 6:12**)...
- ...and He does the same for us in Jesus (*saints, children of God, royal priesthood, holy nation, heirs of God, co-heirs with Jesus...*).
- Gideon discovered his identity, security, and worth was not in himself, or in what he didn't have, or what could be taken away from him, but that his worth and identity was in the Eternal and Almighty God who told him who he really was...
- When you know who you really are in Jesus, doubts diminish because we're no longer putting our trust in things that can be taken away or that are temporary.
- In Jesus, we are new creations.
- We are more than conquerors.
- We are members of God's forever family.
- Doubts no longer have to define us.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy), get your book and other materials, then make sure to sign up for a small group at GroupLink at any of our campuses.

***App:** Message Notes/Connect Card **Or:** MYRC.LINK/CONNECT