



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

Gideon made the gold into an ephod, which he placed in Ophrah, his town. All Israel prostituted themselves by worshipping it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and his family.

Judges 8:27

Fearless: Don't leave God behind.

Imagine you are on a basketball team. All season your team worked hard. It paid off! You won many of your games and even made it to the state championship. Before you head out onto the court to play your final game of the season, you ask God for his help and strength to play the game to the best of your abilities. Then you head out to the court and leave all that you have out there until that final buzzer rings. Your team wins! The crowd is cheering; as you walk up to get the trophy everyone around congratulates you. They're cheering for you and patting you on the back. They all are asking how you did it.

This is where Gideon found himself. He had done what God asked him to do. He had set his people free from the hand of Midian. He won a great victory even though he was a huge underdog. The people were happy with him and even asked him to be the new ruler over them. At first, his response seemed good. He acted humble, and even rejected the offer to be ruler.

But he had one request. He wanted the Israelites to bring their enemies' golden earrings. When they had done this, he made an ephod with the gold (An ephod was a highly ornamented robe that the Israelites used in worship.). Then Gideon placed it in his city. The people gawked over it. Actually, it was worse than that. The writer says, "They prostituted themselves to it." In other words, they worshipped the golden ephod instead of the true and only God. Gideon and his family did the same thing.

After the great victory God had given him, Gideon forgot who truly gave him the victory. He used this victory as an opportunity to get glory for himself and even ignored God's powerful hand which brought him to that point.

It is so easy for the thrill and pride of victorious circumstances to make us forget about the real reason for our successes.

God is the one who has given us everything to be able to achieve our goals. God is the one who has given us the victory. It's good for us to remember that. We owe not only our achievements but our very lives to God. So when things go well in your lives, take a moment to give thanks to God for all that he's done for you and in your life.

Prayer: Dear Lord, I come to you to thank you for all the accomplishments I have achieved in my life, no matter how big or small. You had a part in each one. You helped me and gave me success. I owe all of my success to you. Please help me to remember this in the victorious moments of life. Amen.