Title: Conflict vs Comfort

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Judges 6:11-12 NKJV ¹¹ Now the Angel of the Lord came and sat under the terebinth tree which *was* in Ophrah, which *belonged* to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide *it* from the Midianites. ¹² And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, "The Lord *is* with you, you mighty man of valor!"

1. Worship God

"Why would we need to experience the Comforter if our lives are already comfortable?"

- Francis Chan, Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit

Psalm 106:13-15 (NKJV) ¹³ They soon forgot His works; they did not wait for His counsel, ¹⁴ But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tested God in the desert. ¹⁵ And He gave them their request, but sent **leanness into their soul.**

Psalm 106:15 (The Message) He gave them exactly what they asked for— but along with it they got an empty heart.

2. Face your Idol

"God is more interested in the production of character than the provision of comfort!"

- Rick Godwin: Training for Reigning

Heb 12:3-4 ESV ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may **not grow weary or fainthearted**. ⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

3. Blow the Shofar

"those with faith blaze a trail that threatens all of our comfort zones. Faith offends the stationary."

Bill Johnson

Judges 6:33-34 ESV ³³ Now all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East came together, and they crossed the Jordan and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel. ³⁴ But the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.

4. Fight for God's glory

"There's over 165,000 Christians were killed for their faith, just last year. There's between 200 and 300 million persecuted Christians worldwide, and the world is remaining silent about it. It's the worst holocaust the world has ever known, and even the churches here [in the West] don't know about it. Why? Because our world is divided into two zones: A conflict zone and a comfort zone. The more that you are in a conflict zone, the more that the church is united; it's strong. The more that you're in the comfort zone, the church doesn't care."

- Majed el Shafie, father of lights

Judges 7:2 ESV ² The LORD said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'"