

# Victory Over Impossible Odds



Discover the power that God has for  
you, to overcome the impossible!

Berni Dymet

**Life Application Booklet**

# VICTORY OVER IMPOSSIBLE ODDS

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**by Berni Dymet**

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LIFE APPLICATION BOOKLET

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# CHAPTER 1

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## The Heart that Wavers

It doesn't matter how strong we think we are – when we're faced with impossible odds, our heart wavers. The problems that this world throws at us (which, by the way, seem so close – right in front of our eyes) seem so much bigger than God – who right at that point seems to be a million miles away.

We want to believe in God in the middle of this mess but ...

I'm sure you've experienced that. We all have!

And yet the Bible is replete with examples of God's power being made available to ordinary people like you and me in the midst of the most dire of circumstances. And I believe – in fact I know beyond any shadow of a doubt – that God means for you to lay hold of His power on even the bleakest, the darkest, the most desperate day of your life.

Take just one example; Gideon. At God's behest, he assembled a great army to fight against the armies of the Midianites and the Amalekites. And yet, even with Gideon's army, he was vastly outnumbered. The truth of the

matter was that Gideon had a minnow of an army, the Israelites, against one hundred and thirty five thousand Midianite and Amalekite soldiers.

I mean, it was completely crazy impossible!

But, as though that wasn't enough, God pared down Gideon's army to a mere three hundred men because God wanted Israel to know, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that it was by His power that they would be delivered in this battle, not through their own strength. You can read the story in the Book of Judges, Chapters 6 and 7.

I often wonder what Gideon was thinking and feeling in those days and weeks as God reduced his numbers and sent him on what was almost certainly a Kamikaze suicide mission. Surely no one could win this battle, and honestly – from a human standpoint – that's often how it feels in our lives too, when we're confronted with absolutely impossible odds.

You know what it's like when things are going from bad to worse. Instead of our prayer making things better, they seem to spiral downwards, out of control, and you're left wondering, "God, what are you up to?"

Now, maybe Gideon was made of sterner stuff than thee or me, but even so, he needed to be certain that God was in this. So God, by His grace, gave Gideon an insight as to how He'd already gone before this tiny ragtag band of three hundred to assure victory against this mighty army. Let's have a read:

*Then the Lord said to Gideon, 'With the three hundred that lapped I will deliver you and give the Midianites into your hand. Let all the others go to their homes'. So he took the jars of the troops from their hands and their trumpets and he sent all the rest of Israel back to their own tents but retained the three hundred.*

*The camp of Midian was below them in the valley. That same night the Lord said to him, 'Get up, attack the camp for I have given it into your hand but if you fear to attack go down to the camp with your servant Purah and you shall hear what they say and afterwards your hand shall be strengthened to attack the camp'. And he went down with his servant Purah to the outposts of the armed men that were in the camp.*

*The Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the east lay along the valley as thick as locusts and their camels were without number, countless as the sand on the seashore. When Gideon arrived there was a man telling a dream to his comrade and he said, 'I had a dream and in it a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came to the tent and struck it so that it fell. It turned upside down and the tent collapsed.'*

*And his comrade said, 'This is no other than the sword of Gideon, the son of Joash, a man of Israel. Into his hand God has given Midian and all the army'. When Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its*



*interpretation he worshipped and he returned to the camp of Israel and said, 'Get up for the Lord has given the army of Midian into your hand'. (Judges 7:7-15)*

Do you see what's going on here?

God is about to move in Israel's favour with incredible power through this tiny band of no more than three hundred men. God is about to route one hundred and thirty-five thousand Midianites and Amalekites. Just stop and think about that; the sheer and utter and complete impossibility of that proposition, as you and I stand in the night in the middle of that band of three hundred.

I mean – it's nuts, right?

And so Gideon's heart ... well, it's wavering. Why? Because what he's been asked to do by God is just completely unnatural. We humans have a strong sense of self-preservation and so when God asks us to do something that, from where we sit, looks completely mad ... well, our hearts are going to waver. It simply isn't natural for us to be in a dangerous place and wait for God to move in power.

It simply isn't natural for us to rely on the fact that God has already gone ahead of us to ensure victory. Because, through our sense of saving our own skin, we look at the problem and the risks and the danger that loom so hugely, so ominously before our very eyes ... and we're afraid.

And that fear immobilises us. It causes us to want to run away and hide.

The wife with the difficult husband – she'd love to flee and leave him, but in her heart of hearts she honours God, she believes in the sanctity of marriage and so she endures the impossible. Can she really believe that God has already gone ahead of her to change this impossible man?

The employee with a difficult boss who would love nothing better than to flee this horrid, oppressive work environment and go and get another job, but in his heart of hearts, he knows that God wants him here in this workplace to shine the light of the love of Jesus Christ into that dark hole. So he stays on. Can he really imagine that God is already doing things in these people's hearts that he can't yet perceive?

Do you see how this isn't just some myth from the past?

*It's a true story – it's an historical account of the power of God, and I wonder if sometimes we miss out on seeing God's power because we just run away from the impossible way too early.*

Gideon didn't, because he asked God for signs as his heart was wavering, as any man's heart would do facing almost certain death.

Gideon asked the angel for a sign and fire came down from heaven, and then not once but twice Gideon throws out the fleece: "God, tonight put dew on the fleece but not on the ground. Then I'll know it's from you." So God

does that and the next night Gideon says, “Well, don't get angry with me God, but just to make sure, could you do this the other way round? Could you put the dew on the ground and not on the fleece?” So God does that too.

And here he's about to attack this huge, HUGE, enemy camp and again God gives him a sign – the two men talking on the boundary of the camp, with the fear of Gideon in their hearts. That same night the Lord said to him:

*Get up, attack the camp for I have given them into your hand. But if you fear to attack go down to the camp with your servant Purah and you shall hear what they say and afterwards your hand shall be strengthened to attack the camp. (Judges 7:9-11)*

Don't you love that?!

God knows our frailties, He understands our fears, and so by His grace He leads us through those difficult times. But you and me, we're so often afraid, we're dejected, we're busy panicking, running around in circles, flapping, running away ... man, we wouldn't hear God if He shouted. We want to see God move in power in our lives, we want to understand what He's up to, we want to be encouraged by God and yet we run away and then wonder why we didn't experience the power of God.

Listen to me; by definition, if we're going to see God's power in full flight in our lives, then it's going to be in an absolutely impossible situation against impossible odds and that place,

for a time (perhaps for a short time, maybe even for a long time) is going to be uncomfortable and dark and scary. That place where God does things through His power is never, ever a pleasant place to be. Why does He do things that way?

So that we can be in absolutely no doubt that it came from Him and not through us.

And friend, in my experience, really, it's only as I look back on those times that I can truly see and really comprehend just how amazing God's power is. Just because you and I or Gideon are afraid, it doesn't mean that God has lost His power or that God is not going to show up. Fear is natural, and I believe that what God is saying to you today is this: just get still and listen and let Him lead you and show you what He would reveal to you at this time, and then, like Gideon, your hand will be strengthened to the battle.

















# CHAPTER 2

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## Let the Enemy Flee

It doesn't matter how dire things seem, how dark the night, how lonely the wilderness – when God gets involved, nothing ... nothing ... can stop Him from exercising His power. That's a great theory but knowing that, believing that deep inside – well, on those dark nights in those lonely wildernesses – that's another thing entirely.

Discovering the power of God is what this booklet is all about. Actually laying hold of His power amidst your impossible odds – that's what we're talking about here.

How can you and I lay hold of the awesome power of God at our lowest, darkest point? Because – here's the thing – anyone, anyone who has put their trust in Jesus, anyone who believes that He is the Son of God, that He came to pay for our sins, that through faith in Him we have God's complete forgiveness and a new life ... anyone who's in that place has access to the awesome, awesome power of God in their lives.

The power of God to overcome even the most stubborn and persistent sin: The power of God

to defeat Satan the enemy: The power of God to endure with joy and peace through difficult and dark and dangerous places: The power to love the unlovable, to serve those who don't deserve it:

*Listen to me, please. That power is available to every man, woman and child who puts their life in God's hands through their faith in Jesus.*

Now that's a pretty outrageous claim, particularly if you're someone who is feeling completely powerless just at the moment. And so you may be sitting back there saying, "Well, that's okay for you Berni but how can you make that claim so boldly? How can you know that for sure?"

Well, I'll tell you how. Because time and time and time again, that's exactly what God's Word says. Whether it's through the story of a powerless Gideon that we've just been looking at, or through the words of the Apostle Paul over a couple of thousand years later.

Here is the way Paul puts it, writing to his friends in the Ephesian Church. He says to them:

*I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him. So that with the eyes of your heart enlightened you may know what is the hope to which he's called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance amongst the saints and what's the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe according to*

*the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.*

(Ephesians 1:17-20)

So, what Paul's saying here to the Ephesians is that his prayer for them as they get to know God better, as He reveals Himself to them more and more, is that they would know ***the hope, the riches and the immeasurable greatness of His power*** that they already have because they believe in Jesus – the very same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

As Dr Barry Chant, one of my lecturers way back at Bible College taught me, if we were to take those original Greek words which we now translate into the English, "*immeasurable greatness of His power*" and kind of anglicise them just a tad, they'd come out sounding something like this – ***hyperbalistic, megatonic, dynamic power.***

So right here is the starting point for laying hold of God's power when we're facing incredible odds. Are you ready for this, because it's vitally important?

No matter how powerless we may feel when confronted by our unique set of impossible odds, we don't need to ask God for more power because we already have more power to get through them than we'll ever need. Instead, we need to ask God for a spirit of wisdom and revelation to open and enlighten the eyes of

our heart so that we can see the *hyperbalistic, megatonic, dynamic power* that He has already given us through our faith in Jesus Christ.

Wow!

This is so easy to miss when you're afraid – whether you're you, or me, or Gideon for that matter. We've seen how Gideon's heart wavered, how he suffered from uncertainty and panic attacks in the face of impossible odds. You and I have both experienced that in our lives too.

But God was in that place with Him and God is in this place with us. God had already gone ahead of Gideon, and right now I'd like to share with you what happened when Gideon and his tiny band of three hundred men went up against the Midianites and the Amalekites who numbered one hundred and thirty five thousand. Have a read:

*When Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation he worshipped and he returned to the camp of Israel and said, 'Get up for the Lord has given the army of Midian into your hand'. After he divided the three hundred men into three companies and put trumpets into the hands of all of them and empty jars and torches inside the jars he said to them, 'Look at me and do the same. When I come to the outskirts of the camp do as I do. When I blow the trumpet I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets around the whole camp and shout "For the Lord and for Gideon".'*

*So Gideon and the hundred who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch when they had just set the watch and they blew the trumpets and smashed the jars that were in their hands. So the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars holding in their left hand the torches and in their right hand the trumpet to blow and they cried, 'A sword for the Lord and for Gideon'.*

*Every man stood in his place all around the camp and all the men in the camp ran. They cried out and they fled when they blew the three hundred trumpets. The Lord set every man's sword against his fellow, against all the army and the army fled as far as Beth-shittah towards Zererah and as far as the border of Abel-meholah and Tabbath and the men of Israel were called out from Naphtali and from Asher and from Manasseh and they pursued after the Midianites.*

*When Gideon sent messengers to all the hill country of Ephraim saying, 'Come down against the Midianites and seize the waters against them as far as Beth-barah and as far as the Jordan.' So all the men of Ephraim were called out and they seized the waters as far as Beth-barah and the Jordan. They captured the two captains of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb and Zeeb they killed at the wine press of Zeeb as they pursued the Midianites. They brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to*



*Gideon beyond the Jordan.* (Judges 7:15-25)

Wow! Do you see what happened here? What happened was the absolutely impossible – that's what happened. And why? Was it through the might and the power of Gideon's army? No. It was the power of God who had already gone ahead to unsettle the hearts of the Midianites and the Amalekites. It was because God was in that place in all His power that the Israelites prevailed against the completely, completely impossible odds.

My friend, when God is in that place the enemy must flee. When God speaks, when God moves, when God is up to something ... well, let me tell you ... nothing, absolutely nothing is going to stand in His way. It's exactly what the Psalmist writes:

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the most high. God is in the midst of the city, it shall not be moved. God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar, kingdoms totter, he utters his voice and the earth melts. The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

(Psalm 46:4-7)

Friend, that is the sort of power that we've been talking about and it's that power that's available to you when you put your trust in Jesus Christ.

Let me encourage you again to spend some time over this coming week just immersing

yourself in this story of God and Gideon; because it's a story not just about Gideon, not just about the Israelites – it's a story that speaks volumes to us here and now, about who God is and how He brings His power to bear in our lives.

And as you immerse yourselves in this story – Judges 6 to 8 – may God rock your socks off, as you receive His Word of power into your heart.

Friend, God is in the impossible situation with you just as God is in the impossible situation with me, and when we're afraid, when we're doubting ... we need to go to Him. He encourages us and when God moves in power, watch out because no one will stop Him.

















# CHAPTER 3

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## The Power of God

It's easy when you're confronted by difficult situations to imagine that everything's up to you.

*I have to fix the problem. I have to work harder. I have to ...* but what about God? What about His power? What about His ways and His will? How can you and I get out of the road and make room for Him?

I have to be honest with you – I am something of a slow learner. When it comes to laying hold of God's power in my life, which is what we've been talking about together throughout this booklet, I am truly a slow learner. Why? Because time and time again I've fallen into the trap of thinking, "You know what, if I don't make this happen, nobody will."

Even though I've seen God do so many powerful things in my life, even though in this ministry of Christianityworks that I'm so privileged to be part of, we've seen miracle after miracle, we wouldn't exist, I wouldn't be with you right now, had God not delivered this ministry by His power over and over again.

In its sixty-plus-year history, there have been so many times when Christianityworks, the ministry, has been threatened by this or that; you wouldn't believe how Satan has arrayed the armies of hell against this ministry that tells so many people about the saving love of Jesus.

And in my short time, just on fourteen years now, involved with the ministry of Christianityworks, I have seen God do so many miraculous powerful things, overcoming the impossible over and over again, and yet still, each and every time I'm confronted with impossible odds, it seems that my default position is ... well, you know ... it's all up to me.

In part, that's my personality type – I'm a leader like Gideon. The gift that God's given me is my strength, but as I look around I'm not alone. We all seem to be like that, we think it's all up to us. Well, let's get a revelation here – it ain't! If it were all up to us, what would it mean for God to have power and to use that power on this earth?

We've been looking at God's power throughout this booklet, through the story of Gideon, chapters 6, 7 and 8 in the Book of Judges in the Old Testament. And what I've seen is a man, Gideon, who, though he is a natural leader, is also a man of doubts. Yes, he's naturally a strong person, but perfect he ain't!

Perhaps your gifting is in an area other than leadership operating through strength. Some people's gifts lie more in their compassion or in serving or in giving. With Gideon, his natural

gift is his strength, which makes him an ideal leader because he's able to crash through things using that strength.

As I've said, I really relate to that because that's my natural motivation too. People don't come to me so much for compassion or counselling; instead, they come to me when they need something done because I'm one of those people who will crash through obstacles and make things happen and I absolutely love doing that. Gideon was one of those personality types too. Have a read:

*Now the angel of the Lord came and sat under the oak at Ophrah which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite as his son Gideon was beating out the wheat in the wine press to hide it from the Midianites. The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, 'The Lord is with you, you mighty warrior'.*

*Gideon answered him, 'But sir, if the Lord is with us why then has all this happened to us and where are all the wonderful deeds that our ancestors recounted to us saying, did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? But now the Lord has cast us off and given us into the hand of Midian.' Then the Lord turned to him and said, 'Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. I hereby commission you'. (Judges 6:11-14)*

Now this is really interesting. The angel calls him a mighty warrior and commands him to go (and I quote):

*In this might of yours to deliver Israel from the hand of Midian.*

God knows what He's doing. He's picked a strong guy, a leader. You want that sort of man to head up an army that's about to fight a much, much, much larger army against impossible human odds, right? You want a leader. But as we've seen, Gideon's heart wavered. No less than four times did God have to give him a miraculous sign in order to convince Gideon that God was indeed in this and that victory was assured.

I love that!! I love that because God's saying to us, "Look, I don't care how strong you are, even if you're a leader like Gideon – even if you're one of these strongest of all personality types, you can't do this on your own. You cannot overcome the impossible in your own might."

Do you get it? God deliberately picks a strong man, Gideon, through whom to teach us this lesson – this mighty warrior, this man called to go in His might and deliver Israel. Thank you Jesus.

And the only way that I have learned to let go and let God do the things that only He can do, is by learning His ways from His Spirit through His Word. Leaving room for God doesn't come naturally to me, I have to tell you. It's something I have had to learn, and I am still learning. It goes completely against the grain to take my hands off the wheel and say, "Okay God, I've done all I can – anything else I need to do just

let me know, but I'm about to stand back here because I believe I'm going to see Your power do the things that I can't even begin to dream of or hope for or imagine.”

Take the disciples; they'd been with Jesus, the eleven that remained after His death and resurrection, for just over three and a half years. Quite an apprenticeship – what a Bible College – three and a half years with Jesus; watching, seeing, hearing and experiencing the power of God first hand.

If anyone was equipped to go and start off the 1st century Church, it was these guys but just before He ascends into heaven, Jesus says to them, “You're not ready, there's something else that you need.”

*And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)*

*So when they came together they asked Him, 'Lord, is this the time when you'll restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'it is not for you to know the times or the periods that the Father has set by His own authority but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:6-8)*

They needed power; power from on high; power from above; God's power – the power of the Holy Spirit who comes to dwell in each

person who puts their faith in Jesus – the power of the Holy Spirit who, if we lay our lives down at the foot of the cross, will completely drench us, completely soak us and change us, baptise us with His power.

And can I tell you? As someone who for much of his life has laboured at things through his own strength, what an amazing blessing it is. What a joy and a delight it is to see God do things in power in my life. Am I still naturally a strong guy? Of course I am, but what a delight it is when the Spirit of God counsels me to hold my tongue or to take my foot off the accelerator or to stop worrying about this or that because God's already gone ahead of me.

For me, a huge part of God's power is not only moving impossible mountains or winning battles or overcoming obstacles. A huge part of God's power is changing me, making me malleable in the potter's hands, taking the selfishness, the anger, and replacing it with peace and joy. Friend, that takes power – extraordinary power in my case – to set me free from my sin.

And that's the power that God would hand to each one of us – not the way the world gives because the world gives power to the rich and the famous, to those who seize power at any cost. But that's not how God gives it:

*He gives power to the faint and He strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary and the young will fall exhausted. But those who wait for the Lord*

*will renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

(Isaiah 40:29-31)

Wake up! God's power is for you. It's here and now. Ready and waiting. For you!



# Pause for Prayer

Father God, we come before You as weak and fallible people, and yet we come before You in faith. Lord, as we read Gideon's story over and over again, we want to thank You that You chose a mighty warrior and showed us that even such a man, amongst the strongest of the strong, a true leader, couldn't do it without You. Thank You for Gideon's doubts, his failings, his limitations.

And thank You Lord God, that in the midst of all of that, You encouraged him, You compensated for His weaknesses and You showed up in power to win against what we would consider to be impossible odds.

And yet, nothing is impossible for You. So we come boldly, confidently, before Your throne of grace to ask You for Your help in our hour of need. We know that You delight in us when we cast all our cares on You; when we boldly trust the impossible into Your hands; when we're prepared to stand in a place and lose everything if You don't show up.

Lord, be our strength, show us Your power, uphold us with Your victorious right hand.

In the mighty name of Jesus we pray. Amen!

# ABOUT CHRISTIANITYWORKS

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Here at Christianityworks our passion is seeing countless lives transformed one by one, as we share the good news of Jesus through the media around the globe.

It's something that we've been doing since 1957. Of course back then we were known as Back to the Bible, changing our name to Christianityworks in 2001.

Today, the radio and television broadcasts that we produce with the support of friends like you, reach a weekly audience that we conservatively estimate to be over 20 million people in 160 countries.

We believe that as we make innovative use of mass media – radio, television, digital + online and print – God works mightily by His Spirit and His Word, transforming lives.

In fact, its not something that we just believe, it's something that we know.

We receive so many testimonies each month from around the globe, of lives that have been saved, touched and transformed as God works through the ministry of Christianityworks.

Thank you for remembering that Christianityworks is a faith based ministry. We rely on the support of friends like you to reach the lost with the saving love of Jesus.

Your secure, online gift today will make a powerful difference in the lives of so many.

To give, just visit: [christianityworks.com/donate](http://christianityworks.com/donate).

Thank you with all my heart.

Your friend in Jesus,



Berni Dymet



Berni Dymet

## Victory Over Impossible Odds

Discover the power that God has for you, to overcome the impossible!

Power – people steal for it, fight wars for it and die for it. Power is a seductive commodity in this world. And yet ... so many people are powerless.

God talks a lot about power. A different sort of power. His power. A power that's available to each man, woman and child who would place their faith in Jesus His Son. And it's the power that raised Jesus from the dead that's available to each one of us.

In this booklet, Berni Dymet digs deep into God's Word to help you discover how to lay hold of the awesome power of God in your life.