

Faith and Fleeces

God used Gideon to accomplish the deliverance of Israel from the Midianites, and Gideon is set forth as an example of faith in Hebrews 11. Answer the following questions as you read the passages:

Read Judges 6:36–40.

1. Was Gideon trusting the promises of God from 6:12, 6:14, and 6:16?
2. Was Gideon testing God?
3. What does Deuteronomy 6:16 say about tempting or testing God?

Read Hebrews 11:32–34.

4. Which of the descriptions in verses 33 and 34 apply to Gideon?
5. Did Gideon always exhibit faith?

When we look at a narrative passage of Scripture like the account of Gideon, we must examine the passage and the rest of Scripture to decide if it is an example for us to follow or an example to teach us a lesson (or both). Some passages are prescriptive, telling us how to live, while other passages are descriptive, simply describing an event that occurred.

6. In light of these passages (and other passages that may come to mind as you think about testing God), is Judges 6:36–40 giving us a description of what happened, an example to follow, or both?
7. Should we be setting fleeces before the Lord to test him, or should we be obeying the commands he has given us in his Word?