

# Here to There

## Focus on God, Not the Gap

**AUGUST 21, 2022**

What do you do when the gap between where you are and where you want to be seems too big? The secret lies not in focusing on the gap, but something else entirely.

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### MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- What do you do when the gap between where you are right now and where you want to be seems too big?
- He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion. | Philippians 1, v.6
- Sometimes, when the gap between where we are and where we want to be is too big, our fight or flight response kicks in.
- Flight—when faced with God’s plans for our life, we opt out or run.
- Fight—we try to close the gap on our own, try to be more moral or giving or loving. This works, until it doesn’t. And then we give up.
- In the book of Judges, we meet Gideon. Gideon Defeated the Midianites (135,000 of them) with 300 men, ushered in 40 years of peace, and was nominated to be Israel’s king.
- Read Judges, chapter 6, verses 6 through 16.
- Gideon says, “...how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.” | Judges 6, v.15
- God says, “I will be with you...” | Judges 6, v.16
- God is saying, “You are mighty because I am mighty. Your job is to trust and follow.”
- Focus on God, not the gap.
- Getting “there” isn’t dependent on your ability to muscle your way there. It’s God’s power, not yours.
- Trust what God said over what you see.
- What God said—You are a mighty warrior. Go in the strength that you have; it’s enough. I know everything about you. I’m with you.
- “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” | Isaiah 55, vv.8-9
- If you want to live mightily, you have to see rightly. Focus on God, not the gap.

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We all have a gap between where we are and where we want to be in some area of our lives. What’s the biggest “gap” for you currently—“I’m here, but I wish I could be *there*”?
2. Sometimes, we go into flight or flight mode when faced with God’s plans for us. Have you ever found yourself “opting out” or running from what God has for you? And/or have you ever tried to “fight”—try harder, do more, do it all yourself?
3. One of the best things we can do when faced with a “gap” is to trust what God says over what we currently see. In what ways might God be asking you to trust Him despite your current circumstances?
4. It can be challenging to focus on God rather than how large the gap is. What can you do and put into practice this week to make sure you see more of God and His perspective for you instead of being discouraged about the gap?