

SURGE

Blessed Subtraction

Pastor Carl Toti
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Philippians 2:15 (KJV)

“... so that you may be God’s children, blameless, sincere and wholesome, living in a warped and diseased world, and shining there like lights in a dark place. “

At the heart of every difficult decision lie three tough choices:

1. What to pursue versus what to ignore.
2. What to leave in versus what to leave out.
3. What to do versus what not to do.

This is the art of subtraction. Subtraction is defined simply as the art of removing anything excessive, confusing, wasteful, unnatural, hazardous, hard to use, or ugly. . . or the discipline to refrain from adding it in the first place. --Laws of Subtraction: Six Simple Rules for Winning in the Age of Excess Everything by Matthew E. May

Judges 7:1-7 (NLT)

“ So Jerub-baal (that is, Gideon) and his army got up early and went as far as the spring of Harod. The armies of Midian were camped north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. ² The LORD said to Gideon, “You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength. ³ Therefore, tell the people, ‘Whoever is timid or afraid may leave this mountain and go home.’” So 22,000 of them went home, leaving only 10,000 who were willing to fight. ⁴ But the LORD told Gideon, “There are still too many! Bring them down to the spring, and I will test them to determine who will go with you and who will not.” ⁵ When Gideon took his warriors down to the water, the LORD told him, “Divide the men into two groups. In one group put all those who cup water in their hands and lap it up with their tongues like dogs. In the other group put all those who kneel down and drink with their mouths in the stream.” ⁶ Only 300 of the men drank from their hands. All the others got down on their knees and drank with their mouths in the stream. ⁷ The LORD told Gideon, “With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home.”

FEARFUL

Deuteronomy 20:8 (MSG)

“The officers will then continue, ‘And is there a man here who is wavering in resolve and afraid? Let him go home right now so that he doesn’t infect his fellows with his timidity and cowardly spirit.’”

Proverbs 29:25 tells us that the *“fear of man brings a snare.”*

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

FORGETFUL

Judges 7:5 (NLT)

"When Gideon took his warriors down to the water, the LORD told him, "Divide the men into two groups. In one group put all those who cup water in their hands and lap it up with their tongues like dogs. In the other group put all those who kneel down and drink with their mouths in the stream."

FAITHFUL

Judges 7:6-7 (NLT)

⁶ Only 300 of the men drank from their hands. All the others got down on their knees and drank with their mouths in the stream. ⁷ The LORD told Gideon, "With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home."

Exodus 23:2a (TLB)

"Don't join mobs intent on evil..."

Exodus 23:2a (KJV)

"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil.."

Exodus 23:2a (NIV)

"Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong..."

Exodus 23:2a (NCV)

"You must not do wrong just because everyone else is doing it..."

Exodus 23:2a (TEV)

"Do not follow the majority when they do wrong..."

Matthew 7:13-14 (NLT)

¹³ "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. ¹⁴ But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it."