

“Then Gideon said to God, “If you are truly going to use me to rescue Israel as you promised, prove it to me in this way. I will put a wool fleece on the threshing floor tonight. If the fleece is wet with dew in the morning but the ground is dry, then I will know that you are going to help me rescue Israel as you promised.” Judges 6:36-37 NLT

## lectio // Judges 6:36-40

Of course I ❤️ the “fleece” story! But today I wanted to focus on three other words in the story that are far more telling. One, the word, “said.” Gideon talked with God! Gideon talked to God. This was NOT normal. I’m sure that men and women were praying, but this is a conversation. Gideon talked, God listened. How does someone talk to God in such a way that God listens? Two, the word, “if.” If in this context could mean a lot of things, but here it was a word of doubt? Doesn’t it seem that a question follows the word “if.” And if so, who questions God? It reminds me of someone else who had a question, but he questioned Gabriel, “Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen?” We know that didn’t go so well for Zach. Gabriel said, “But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born.” 😬 First you have a conversation, then you have a question? What’s next? Having God do something for you? Well, that’s the third word, “prove.” Gideon says, “prove it to me this way.” God’s patience and love is so amazing. God was going to have His story, THE story go the way he wanted it, and was willing to work with Gideon on including him in it.

## oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

You know I’m slow in understanding and slow in obedience. As the season of my life crests the peak, I feel LESS bold, less brave. Some of it is fear, some of it is a sense that I have too much to lose. But honestly, it comes back to a lack of trust. I don’t lack the trust that you are able. I lack the trust that you are truly speaking to me to act on something that is either crazy, or out of my comfort level. I feel as though I’m stepping out of my comfort zone more (and more often) now than I ever did when I was in my twenties. But these words from Judges are also used far more often. “If” and “prove” are not a part of my conversation with you. I listen more, but need to work on expediency!

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root