

# Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Inc. Bible Study

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## Judges 2:16-23

### What Does It Take To Prosper As A Community Of Faith?

This is a very intriguing question for me. I am in agreement with John Maxwell who asserts that most people do not know how to be successful. He says in his book, *Developing the Leader Within You*, "Success is really a process. It is growth and development. It is achieving one thing and using that as a stepping-stone to achieve something else. It is a journey." I do not believe that most individuals or groups know what it takes to prosper unless they are taught whether by some sort of structured instruction and/or observation of a transparent leader.

As we study the book of Judges it appears that the people of God were unclear as to what it takes to prosper as a community. The verses we are now examining summarize the book: the people of God would fall down and get up only to fall again and repeat the cycle all over. Did they know how to prosper as a people?

Let's look at the verses and discuss a few things about the people of God.

**v.16 Nevertheless;** this is a blessing to read. It speaks of God blessing His people when He shouldn't have. Nevertheless-it means, "He didn't have to do it, but I'm sure glad He did." Nevertheless-it means, "I fell down, but I'm getting back up." Nevertheless means, "We have another chance." Nevertheless reminds us of John's words, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 Jn. 1:9)

Never overlook the "neverthelessness" of God. We fall down, nevertheless, we get back up. We make a mess of marriages and careers, nevertheless, His mercy is bigger than our mess. We can wreck good things He has blessed us with, nevertheless, we can

rejoice in God causing all things to work together for good. You can be in trouble and say, "Nevertheless, I'm coming out." God is a God of neverthelesses because He is firm, fair, faithful, merciful, longsuffering, compassionate, and loving toward His people!

### Additional Notes

**v.16 Judges;** yasha in Hebrew which means to save. God chose leaders to get them out of bondage. When the people of God would disobey, God would allow their enemies to overtake them and enslave them. He would then raise up military leaders to fight for their freedom and prosperity.

**v.17 They would not listen.** They didn't honor their leaders and it kept them in trouble. One thing that is necessary for an individual and/or group to prosper is to heed God-raised leadership. We can never be too grown to follow leadership. We can never be too knowledgeable about the word of God to disregard God-raised leadership.

Let me ask a question. How could the nation live like this? Was there anything in place in their society to prevent this disregard for leadership? I wonder if the rebellious could be confronted by those who were concerned about the corporate prosperity of the people of God. Does the word of God give Believers authority to confront one another when we're out of line with leadership that is trying to take a people into what God has ordained? Yes.

Rom. 16:17-19  
I Thess. 5:14-15; read this one in the AMP

Let me share with you John Maxwell's

### Ten Commandments of Confrontation

1. Do it privately, not publicly.
2. Do it as soon as possible. That is more natural than waiting a long time.
3. Speak to one issue at a time. Don't overload the person with a long list of issues.
4. Once you've made a point don't keep repeating it.
5. Deal only with actions the person can change. If you ask the person to do something they are unable to do, frustration builds in your relationship.
6. Avoid sarcasm. Sarcasm signals that you are angry at people, not at their actions, and may cause them to resent you.
7. Avoid words like *always* and *never*. They usually detract from accuracy and make people defensive.
8. Present criticisms as suggestions or questions if possible.
9. Don't apologize for the confrontational meeting. Doing so detracts from it and may indicate you are not sure you had the right to say what you did.
10. Don't forget the compliments. "Sandwich" them like so:  
Compliment-Confront-Compliment

On the other side of confronting is listening. Answer the following questions and give yourself four points if the answer is *Always*; three points for *Usually*; two points for *Rarely*; and one point for *Never*.

\_\_\_\_\_ Do I allow the speaker to finish without interrupting?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do I listen "between the lines"; that is, for the subtext?

\_\_\_\_\_ When writing a message, do I listen for and write down the key facts and phrases?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do I repeat what the person just said to clarify the meaning?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do I avoid getting hostile and/or agitated when I disagree with the speaker?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do I tune out distractions when listening?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do I make an effort to seem interested in what the other person is saying?

26 or higher: Excellent listener

22-25: Better than average

18-21: Room for improvement

17 or lower: Pray

It is very important to note that there needs to be some people within the organization/community who can lovingly confront others who are jeopardizing the vision for those persons.

**v.17 Whoring after other gods.** What made them rebel? Lack of self discipline? Lost sight of the vision? If they had the Holy Ghost would they have obeyed God? Write a brief explanation as to what led to their rebellion:

**v.18 The Lord was with the judge.** Let's talk about God partnering with leadership He raises up and why we need this type of leadership in our lives.

**v.19 Dead judges.** The people "corrupted" themselves. What does this mean?

Union Grove needs to be a ministry that can **build people** who:

- Love God and obey His voice
- Follow God-raised leadership
- Understand and promote the vision
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