

SPIRITUAL GROUND HOG DAY

JUDGES 1-2 | ERIC SIMPSON | MAY 9, 2021

"We may, indeed, be sure that perfect chastity—like perfect charity [love]—will not be attained by any merely human efforts. You must ask for God's help. Even when you have done so, it may seem to you for a long time that no help, or less help than you need, is being given. Never mind. After each failure, ask forgiveness, pick yourself up, and try again. Very often what God first helps us towards is not the virtue itself but just this power of always trying again. For however important chastity (or courage, or truthfulness, or any other virtue) may be, this process trains us in habits of the soul which are more important still. It cures our illusions about ourselves and teaches us to depend on God. We learn, on the one hand, that we cannot trust ourselves even in our best moments, and, on the other, that we need not despair even in our worst, for our failures are forgiven. The only fatal thing is to sit down content with anything less than perfection." – C.S. Lewis

Judges 1:1-2

¹After the death of Joshua, the Israelites asked the LORD, "Who will be the first to go up and fight for us against the Canaanites?" ² The LORD answered, "Judah is to go; I have given the land into their hands."

Judges 1:17-19

¹⁷Then the men of Judah went with the Simeonites their brothers and attacked the Canaanites living in Zephath, and they totally destroyed the city...¹⁹ The LORD was with the men of Judah. They took possession of the hill country, but they were unable to drive the people from the plains, because they had iron chariots.

Judges 2:10-12

¹⁰After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. ¹¹ Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. ¹² They forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them...

Judges 2:14-15

...the LORD handed them over to raiders who plundered them. He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. ¹⁵ Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the LORD was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress.

Judges 2:16

Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders.



How does God break us out of patterns that need broken?

1. **Awareness** = you can't change something you're not aware of
2. **Pain** = when the pain of your current circumstances exceeds the pain of change, things start changing
3. **Routines** = new habits that are in line with the new direction