**How to Have the Worst Year Ever** (graphic)

#1 Be a **complainer**!

#2 Be **selfish**!

#3 Be afraid!

Things that make us afraid:

* When we feel **powerless**. *\*\*build a list\*\**
* When we’re outnumber and **alone**.
* When we’re exposed and **unprotected**.

(Judges 6:2)

“Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds.”

(Judges 6:12-13)

“When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, “**The Lord is with you, might warrior**.” “Pardon me, my Lord” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

(Judges 6:14)

“The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. **Am I not sending you**?”

(Judges 6:15-16)

“Pardon me, my Lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and **I am the least** in my family.” The Lord answered, “**I will be with you**, and **you will** strike down the Midianites,”

(Judges 8:28)

“Thus Midian was subdued before the Israelites and did not raise its head again. During Gideon’s lifetime, **the land had peace** forty years.”

1. We feel brave when we are **powerful**.

(2 Timothy 1:7)

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

1. We feel brave when we have **back up**.

(Joshua 1:5)

“No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; **I will never leave you nor forsake you**.”

1. We feel brave when we are **protected**.

(Psalm 18:2)

“The **Lord** is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock in whom I take **refuge**, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

God gives us **strength**.

God has got **our back**.

God is our **protection**.

Psalm 91