

## ***Identifying Spiritual Entropy***

Old Testament Challenge - Week of June 13

### **Bible Text:**

Book of Judges

### **Theme:**

There is a basic cycle that repeats itself throughout the period of the judges: a) Blessing; b) Apathy; c) Sin; d) Judgment; e) Repentance; f) Deliverance. This cycle can be seen in our own lives.

### **Daily Readings:**

- Monday – Judges 1-2
- Tuesday – Judges 3
- Wednesday – Judges 4
- Thursday – Judges 5
- Friday – Judges 6-7
- Saturday – Judges 8-9
- Sunday – Judges 10

### **Bible Memory Verse:**

*“I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land that I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you...’”* Judges 2:1

### **Personal Reflection:**

1. In Judges 1:28, we read “When Israel became strong, they pressed the Canaanites into forced labor but never drove them out completely.” What were the results of Israel allowing this pagan people to remain in the land?
  
2. As you reflect on your struggle to become holy, are there any areas of sin that you are not really seeking to “drive out completely”? What kind of fruit is this producing in your life?

3. As you read this week, you see a cycle of Blessing > Apathy > Sin > Judgment > Repentance > and Deliverance play out in Israel's life. How does this cycle play out in your own life? If you were to place yourself somewhere in this cycle, where would you be? What should you do about this?

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What were the things that kept snaring the Israelites and leading them to abandon the Lord? Why do you think these things were so powerful?
2. How does our contemporary culture make it hard for us to live the life God desires?
3. What are some of God's greatest blessings in your life? Describe how some of these specific blessings can lead us into a place of spiritual apathy.

**Action Challenge:**

Take some time this week to examine the "sin cycle" described in the sermon and identify how this has played out in your life at different points.