



You do not need a great faith, but faith in a great God!

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We readily think of David, the Shepherd boy, who became King, for his astonishing faith and courage. Who could ever tire of hearing the account of his victory over Goliath. But today I would like to talk about Jonathon, King Saul's son, who exhibited the same spirit of faith and courage. It is no wonder that when he and David meet, they instantly bond as kindred spirits (1 Samuel 18:1).

Israel was under the occupation of the Philistines and at this time, they had withdrawn after a defeat. Saul was stationed with six hundred men but unwilling to go to battle due to the vast number of the Philistine army. Many of the Hebrews at that time were hiding in the hills.

But Jonathan had different ideas. Let's read from 1 Samuel 14: 1 to 4.

And v 6 - Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. **Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few.**" (1 Samuel 14:6).

"Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said. **"Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."** (v7).

The rest of the chapter reveals how the courageous two slayed twenty of the enemy on half and acre. God indeed acted to save and gave the victory! When they attacked, God also caused an earthquake sending the whole Philistine army into a panic and they fled. When Saul got wind of this the Israelites pursued the Philistines and routed them, vastly weakening their rule over the region at that time.

Who or what is your Philistine?

What is it that makes you want to hide in the hills, or, reluctant to advance forward?

Saul and the people were intimidated by what seemed to be overwhelming odds.

How can you switch from fear to faith?

Jonathan's faith was not something he woke up with that morning. No, he was a man of faith, a faith he had cultivated over time through his relationship with God and determination to trust God and His promises to Israel.

Later we see: **And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God (1 Sam 23:16).** How did Jonathan know how to do that?

This was the basis of his courage and willingness to act.

We can feed our fear, or we can feed our faith! Romans 10:17. Fill your mind with God's Word!

Jonathan knew how to train and discipline himself due to his military training.

We too can discipline our hearts and minds and train ourselves to trust God.

"You do not need a great faith, but faith in a great God." Hudson Taylor.

Why does size or numbers matter to us?

Saul, even with his 600 men, was paralysed.

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God (Psalm 20:7).

Who is your armour bearer? (Are you an armour bearer for others?) 1 Sam 14:7.

Your faith action will have far reaching consequences.

Jonathan and his armour bearer stepped out in faith not knowing that the whole Philistine army would be routed by the hand of God.

Like Jonathan, we can have a Kingdom size vision to see God save and work.

Will you go? Will you act? Will you serve the Lord? Will you give? Will you love?

It takes courage! Jonathan acted in faith and God stepped in!

As we step forward together, let us combine our hearts and faith.

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