

**1 Samuel 14:1-23 (ESV)**

1 One day Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistine garrison on the other side." But he did not tell his father. 2 Saul was staying in the outskirts of Gibeah in the pomegranate cave at Migron. The people who were with him were about six hundred men, 3 including Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, son of Phinehas, son of Eli, the priest of the Lord in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people did not know that Jonathan had gone. 4 Within the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistine garrison, there was a rocky crag on the one side and a rocky crag on the other side. The name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. 5 The one crag rose on the north in front of Michmash, and the other on the south in front of Geba.

6 Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the Lord will work for us, for nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few." 7 And his armor-bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Do as you wish. Behold, I am with you heart and soul." 8 Then Jonathan said, "Behold, we will cross over to the men, and we will show ourselves to them. 9 If they say to us, 'Wait until we come to you,' then we will stand still in our place, and we will not go up to them. 10 But if they say, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up, for the Lord has given them into our hand. And this shall be the sign to us." 11 So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, "Look, Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden themselves." 12 And the men of the garrison hailed Jonathan and his armor-bearer and said, "Come up to us, and we will show you a thing." And Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Come up after me, for the Lord has given them into the hand of Israel." 13 Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, and his armor-bearer after him. And they fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer killed them after him. 14 And that first strike, which Jonathan and his armor-bearer made, killed about twenty men within as it were half a furrow's length in an acre of land. 15 And there was a panic in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and even the raiders trembled, the earth quaked, and it became a very great panic.

16 And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and behold, the multitude was dispersing here and there. 17 Then Saul said to the people who were with him, "Count and see who has gone from us." And when they had counted, behold, Jonathan and his armor-bearer were not there. 18 So Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the ark of God here." For the ark of God went at that time with the people of Israel. 19 Now while Saul was talking to the priest, the tumult in the camp of the Philistines increased more and more. So Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand." 20 Then Saul and all the people who were with him rallied and went into the battle. And behold, every Philistine's sword was against his fellow, and there was very great confusion. 21 Now the Hebrews who had been with the Philistines before that time and who had gone up with them into the camp, even they also turned to be with the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan. 22 Likewise, when all the men of Israel who had hidden themselves in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were fleeing, they too followed hard after them in the battle. 23 So the Lord saved Israel that day. And the battle passed beyond Beth-aven.

**1) The Necessity of Faith**

Saul is in the outskirts of Gibeah in a pomegranate cave at Migron

Another possible translation of this (*which many versions besides the ESV use*) is that Saul was SITTING under a pomegranate tree

Jonathan on the other hand is ready to fight

**1 Samuel 14:6 (ESV)**

**Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the Lord will work for us, for nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few."**

Jonathan looked beyond the daunting, impossible circumstances and obstacles that were in front of him and believed in God's ability to deliver

The only thing that is impossible to do without faith is the ability to please God  
That's the only thing you should accept as being impossible

Living with faith doesn't mean it's going to be easy (We walk by faith, not by sight)

Jonathan's courage to act in faith came from God's promise that he would save his people from the hand of the Philistines (1 Samuel 9:16)

Faith is necessary to move us forward into God's promises

## 2) The Perhaps of Faith

Jonathan shows an unbelievable confidence in God's promise and power to save, he also knows that God is not required to respond in the way he thinks God should

"It may be that the Lord will work for us" (ESV)

"Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf" (NIV)

"Maybe GOD will work for us" (MSG)

Jonathan is confident, but not arrogant

There are many times your faith or courage or risk doesn't turn out the way you think it should

Perhaps means:

- 1) Acknowledging God's sovereignty, that God can do whatever he wants and that he is not bound to us
- 2) Maintaining a humility and leaving yourself in God's hand, no matter what that may lead to

## 3) The Victory of Faith

### **Ben Mandrell QUOTE**

**"The Philistines saw themselves as invincible. Jonathan and his armor bearer saw themselves as immortal. Living or dying, they were in God's hands. So the apostle Paul would put it this way later in the New Testament: To live is Christ, and to die is gain or as [John] Piper says, 'What's the worst they can do on the mission field, kill you?' You see, the Christian worldview assumes that death is nothing more than a gate into a greater life. And when we live with this teleological or end-in-mind thinking, it really frees us up to take some bold risks in the present. And Jonathan believed that God would save him living or dying."**

We are living from the victory

Whether we live or die, we're fully alive in Christ, we are already more than conquerors because Christ achieved the greatest victory on the cross

Nothing can take that away from us

So that allows us to live fearlessly with faith for his glory

## Application Questions

- 1) Jonathan looked beyond the daunting, impossible circumstances and obstacles that were in front of him and believed in God's ability to deliver. How do you usually respond to situations that seem impossible? In what ways might God be calling you to have faith in those situations? Are there any promises from the Bible that might help you move forward in faith?
- 2) What are some ways you can determine whether your act of faith is more about yourself and what you want or whether it's really about honoring and glorifying God?
- 3) In what ways in your life right now might God be calling you to take initiative and move forward in faith for his glory?
- 4) Are there any fears you have that might be preventing you from living a life a faith?