
HEROES OF THE FAITH

PART 2 · JONATHAN

Boldness that brings breakthrough

In this season of great opportunity and promise, it's a great time to look at the lives of the heroes of the faith from scripture.

As we read, remember God has insights and wisdom for you to glean from this Old Testament passage.

The New Testament is concealed in the Old Testament.

The Old Testament is revealed in the New Testament.

This event in Jonathan's life shows us what living and acting with bold faith looks like, and the way it influences those around us.

Setting the Scene

Jonathan is the son of King Saul, Israel's first King.

At this point in history, things aren't going well for Israel. The Promised Land is not free of opposition, even though they are already living there.

1 Samuel 14:1-3 – The State of the Union

“One day Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who carried his armour...”

“Saul was staying in the outskirts of Gibeah...”

Jonathan sees an opportunity; while Saul has the people and the spiritual guidance to go, but fails to see things the way that Jonathan does.

1 Samuel 14:4-5 – An Impossible Situation

“...there was a rocky crag on the one side and a rocky crag on the other side.”

Jonathan is confronted with what looks like an impassable barrier.

What situations are you looking at right now, that seem entirely unpassable?

1 Samuel 14:6-7 – A Powerful Faith

“...for nothing can hinder the Lord from saving..”

The faith of Jonathan, and the loyalty of the Armour-Bearer.

Nothing is impossible for God.

1 Samuel 14:8-12 – An Implausible Plan

“But if they say, ‘Come up to us,’ then we will go up...”

Jonathan is so convinced of God’s power and victory that he pronounces that this victory is already decided and won.

Are we able to trust that God’s power is able to accomplish all that God desires?

1 Samuel 14:13-15 – God Backs the Bold

“The garrison and even the raiders trembled...”

Jonathan climbs **UP** to the Philistines. This isn't a smart military strategy!

God will use the faith of the bold to accomplish much, and will demonstrate His power and dominion as He does it.

1 Samuel 14:16-20 – Boldness Blesses Everyone: Unity

“Then Saul and all the people who were with him rallied”

Saul had been waiting instead of acting.

Jonathan's boldness crystallises Saul into action.

There's a time for faithful waiting, seeking the Lord and making decisions after long and careful Godly consideration.

But sometimes, we use these things as an excuse for not acting because we're scared – just like Saul.

1 Samuel 14:21-23 – Boldness Blesses Everyone: Reconciliation

“So the LORD saved Israel that day.”

Jonathan's actions revived the passion of the nation.

Our boldness of faith, when we step out, has an impact on those around us.

Discussion Questions

1. Jonathan took the initiative to seek out where God was working and leading him. Where is God doing the same for you?
2. Jonathan had his armour-bearer with him. Such relationships are so valuable, where people will have your back and share your passion. Who are these people in your life?
3. How do they help you be bold in your faith?
4. Jonathan was faced with an impossible situation: his goal was on the other side of a great ravine. He had to push through completely inconvenient, and approach his goal from the worst possible circumstances. How do you think you would react in such a situation?
5. What challenges are currently facing you, which you will have to push through to see God's plan come to fruition?
6. God's wisdom, and the prophetic words that we receive, will sometimes seem to contradict worldly wisdom. Our relational closeness to God will help us determine what His leading is, and what is just a bad idea or the best the world can offer. How have you seen this connection to God influence your planning and wise choices?
7. Have you ever had the chance to step out boldly in God? What did you do? What was the result?
8. Jonathan's boldness brings a massive breakthrough for the people around him. Has someone else's boldness of faith ever helped you to become bolder in your faith?
9. Jonathan's bold faith rallies the nation of Israel, bringing people back together. The testimony and fruit of God's work is designed to draw us together, and become reconciled to God and one another. But sometimes, if we are sceptical of God's work, bold faith can bring division. Has this ever happened to you?
10. Spend some time praying through forgiveness issues around disunity and judgement from when other's boldness has caused a negative response in you.
11. Close your time together by praying with the disciples from Acts 4:29b-30, "grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."