

Dear Heavenly Father,

Praise

You are never intimidated by the size of the enemy or the difficulty of the battle. With you “all things are possible” (Matt 19:26). As Paul said, “God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Cor 9:8 NIV). I worship you today for your glorious grace! Praise the Lord!

Today in Your Word

Today you told me about Jonathan’s victory, Saul’s rash oath, and your final rejection of Saul as king of Israel. Jonathan’s daring attack on the Philistines was motivated by his belief that your power was what mattered, not the size of Israel’s army (1 Sam 14:6 NIV). This produced a great expectation: “Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf.” Jonathan was convinced that you could save “by many or by few,” and so he placed himself at your disposal. What an inspiring example of true faith—a faith that is founded on your character! Jonathan chose a specific sign as a way to discern your will, and then he acted boldly when you confirmed your desire for him to fight. You gave him a great victory that was sadly marred by his father’s rash actions. Saul’s penchant for making oaths and vows is telling, for those who harbor sin in their heart often compensate with displays of zeal and piety. Moreover, Saul’s foolish and self-centered behavior foreshadowed his disobedience in the matter of the Amalekites. There it is clear that Saul placed his own opinion of what should be done above your clear command. When confronted by Samuel, Saul justified his actions and refused to humble himself before you. Once again, he showed that he was more concerned about his image than he was about obeying you.

Reflection

Jonathan’s “perhaps” was *part of his faith* (1 Sam 14:6 NIV). He believed in your ability, but he didn’t presume to dictate to you. True faith recognizes its degree of ignorance and bows its knee to your sovereignty. Yet faith also retains its excitement at the thought of what you can do on behalf of your people (D. R. Davis, “1 Samuel,” *FOBC*, p. 147).

Request

Father, I know it’s your will that I be more than a conqueror through Christ who loves me (Rom 8:37). Give me the courage of Jonathan, and help me to live each day by faith!

Thanksgiving

Thank you for the uplifting story of a man who believed you for great things. How wonderful to know that “the LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves” (Zeph 3:17 NIV).

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Suggested Hymn: “[Only an Armor-bearer](#)” – Philip P. Bliss.

Meditation Verse: 1 Samuel 15:22.