

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 22: Chapter 14, The Good Fight of Faith

2 December 2016

This is a Bible account that proves to us that Faith is the Victory. It doesn't matter how small or weak you are, or how few in number you are; if you have faith in God, He can give you the victory.

Faithful Christians are outnumbered by those who oppose God and God's people. As a result, we don't have the resources that the Devil's children have available to them. The Bible teaches us that those things don't matter if God is with us and if, by faith, we trust Him to fight the battle and win the victory and accomplish great things in His holy name.

1. FAITH RECKONS WITH GOD ALONE (vss. 1-3).

- a. Jonathan "**told not his father**" (vs. 1). He didn't consult with unbelievers; those with no faith. He consulted God and proceeded in God's name.
 - b. He didn't wait to see if anyone else was faithful. He set his heart and mind on God and on the cause and set out to take a stand for God regardless of what anybody else was doing.
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2. FAITH DOESN'T LOOK AT THE CIRCUMSTANCES (vss. 1-6).

- a. The Philistines had all the weapons (1 Sam. 13:2).
 - b. The Israelites were outnumbered. The Philistines were numbered "as the sand which is on the sea shore" (13:5). Israel only had 600 men (14:2).
 - c. Jonathan and his armor bearer were outnumbered 10 to 1 (1 Sam. 14:14).
 - d. If they only looked at how the odds were against them, they wouldn't have made a move. Their great faith in what God could do against any odds enabled them to step out and take a stand for Him.
 - e. Faith doesn't look at what man can't do. It looks at what God can do.
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3. FAITH COUNTS ON THE POWER AND THE PRESENCE OF GOD (vs. 6).

- a. There is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.
 - b. We PUT restraints on God by unbelief. (James 1:6, Matthew 21:21).
 - c. Do you think there's anyone that God is not capable of saving? If you do, you've put a restraint on God. (Isaiah 59:1).
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4. FAITH WAITS FOR THE LEADING OF THE LORD (vss. 8-10).

- a. Abraham moved from Haran in faith (Gen. 12:4). As he acknowledged the Lord along the way, looking to Him for guidance, the Lord directed his paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).
 - b. Obey God's will and He will give you the knowledge you need to proceed (John 7:17).
 - c. If God shows you what to do, will you do it? He won't show you if He knows you won't do it.
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5. FAITH IDENTIFIES ITSELF WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD (vs. 12).

- a. Faith does not act for self. Jonathan went up in the name of all of Israel.
 - b. We are a part of the Body of Christ. Our actions should benefit the whole body and glorify God.
 - c. You can be an encouragement to others if they see you serving God and serving them. They'll likely join in with you. If you lead by example, others will follow.
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6. FAITH IS ENERGETIC IN CARRYING OUT THE WILL OF GOD (vss. 13-15).

- a. Jonathan and his companion didn't hold back. They accomplished the task with all their might. (See Ecclesiastes 9:10).
 - b. People are energized about things that they're interested in.
 - i. Look at the people attending any sporting event. Energetic, excited, happy, supportive.
 - ii. Compare that to the people attending church services. Lethargic, indifferent, judgmental.
 - iii. Epaphroditus served the Lord so vigorously that he was "nigh unto death." (Phil. 2:30).
 - iv. The Apostle Paul often put his own life in danger to minister the gospel (2 Cor. 11).
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7. FAITH IS REWARDED BY VICTORY (vss. 16-23).

- a. God caused the enemy to turn on themselves until they were defeated.
 - b. When you make a move for the Lord in faith, He will be with you to bring the right results.
 - c. It all begins when one or two believers present their bodies a living sacrifice and say, "Let's go up and see what God will do. If God is with us, we can expect good success."
 - d. Turn your belief into action and watch what God will do!
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