

Pastor Mason Phillips | October 18, 2026

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Day 1: Stop Sitting on the Precipice

Devotional: Saul had the authority, the anointing, and a weapon -- yet he sat still while his people suffered. How often do we do the same? God has spoken over your life. He has planted dreams, stirred your spirit, and placed a calling on you that is real and urgent. Yet fear keeps many of us parked on the edge of decision, waiting for perfect conditions that will never come. Jonathan saw the same impossible situation Saul saw, but he chose to move. He did not have a detailed plan. He had faith. Today, identify one area where fear has kept you frozen. Ask God to replace that fear with the bold conviction that He can save by many or by few.

Reading:

1 Samuel 13:16-23 NKJV

Saul, Jonathan his son, and the people present with them remained in Gibeah of Benjamin. But the Philistines encamped in Mishmash. Then raiders came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies. One company turned onto the road to Oprah, to the land of Shual, another company turned to the road to Beth Horon, and another company turned to the road of the boarder that overlooks the Valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

Now there was no blacksmith to be found throughout all the land of Israel, for the philistines said, "Lest the Hebrews make swords or spears." But all the Israelites would go down to the Philistines to sharpen each man's plowshare, his mattock, his ax, and his sickle; and the charge for a sharpening was a pin for the plowshares, the mattocks, the forks, and the axes, and to set the points of the goads. So it came about, on the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people who were with Saul and Jonathan. But they were found with Saul and Jonathan his son. And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Mishmash.

1 Samuel 14:1-6 NKJV

Now it happened one day that Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistines' garrison that is on the other side." But he did not tell his father. And Saul was sitting in the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron. The people who we're with him were about six hundred men. Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the Lord's priest in Shiloh, was wearing an ephod. But the people did not know that Jonathan had gone.
Between the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp rock on one said of a sharp rock on the other side. And the name of one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seen. The front of one faced northward opposite Mishmash, and the other southward opposite Gibeah. Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore 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 restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few."

Personal Reflection: What promise or calling from God are you currently sitting on the edge of rather than stepping into?

Practical Application: Write down one specific step of faith you can take this week toward something God has placed on your heart, no matter how small it seems.

Day 2: Nothing Restrains the Lord

Devotional: Jonathan's declaration is one of the most powerful statements of faith in all of Scripture. He acknowledged that the situation was uncertain -- he did not know exactly how God would move. But he anchored himself in what he did know: nothing restrains God from saving by many or by few. Jeremiah 32:17 affirms that nothing is too hard for the Lord. Romans 8:31 reminds us that if God is for us, nothing can stand against us. The enemy wants you to measure your resources before you move. God wants you to measure His faithfulness. Your lack of weapons, people, or a clear plan is not the final word. God's covenant promise is.

Reading:

1 Samuel 14:6-7 NKJV

Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore 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 retrains the Lord from saving by many or by few." So his armor bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart."

Jeremiah 32:17 NKJV

'Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You.

Romans 8:31 NKJV

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Personal Reflection: In what area of your life have you been measuring your own resources instead of trusting God's limitless power?

Practical Application: Memorize or meditate on a specific verse today that declares God's power over your current impossible situation. Speak it aloud at least three times throughout the day.

Day 3: You Were Not Built to Fight Alone

Devotional: Jonathan did not climb that ravine alone. He brought his armor bearer -- someone who believed with him, advanced with him, and fought beside him. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 makes clear that God did not design us for isolation. Two are better than one because when one falls, the other can lift him up. The Christian life is not a solo mission. It is a covenant community endeavor. Many believers are losing battles they could win simply because they refuse to let anyone into their struggle. Pride, shame, and self-sufficiency are tools the enemy uses to keep you fighting alone. Find your battle buddy. Invite someone into your faith journey who will speak truth, pray boldly, and refuse to let you quit.

Reading:

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NKJV

How are better than one,
Because they have a good reward for their labor.
For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.
But woe to him who is alone when he falls,
For he has no one to help him up.
Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm;
But how can one be warm alone?
Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him.
And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Galatians 6:2 NKJV

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Proverbs 27:17 NKJV

As iron sharpens iron,

So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Personal Reflection: Is there someone in your life who genuinely has your back in faith? If not, what is preventing you from pursuing that kind of relationship?

Practical Application: Reach out this week to one person in your church or community and be intentional about beginning or deepening a spiritually accountable friendship.

Day 4: Faith That Moves

Devotional: Jonathan and his armor bearer did not simply talk about trusting God. They climbed. Hand and foot, under the weight of armor, up a steep and ragged cliff face, toward an enemy that outnumbered them -- they moved. James 2 is direct: faith without action is dead. It profits nothing. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen. And 1 John 5:4 declares that faith is the very thing that overcomes the world. Your step of faith does not require certainty of outcome. It requires confidence in the One who holds all outcomes. When you move, God moves. When you engage, heaven responds.

Reading:

James 2:14-17 NKJV

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Hebrews 11:1 NKJV

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

1 John 5:4 NKJV

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith.

Personal Reflection: Where in your life are you confessing faith with your words but holding back with your actions?

Practical Application: Identify one area where your actions do not yet match your stated belief. Take one concrete, visible step today that demonstrates your trust in God's faithfulness.

Day 5: Your Victory Stirs Others

Devotional: When Jonathan engaged the enemy, something remarkable happened. Israelites who had defected and joined the Philistines turned around and rejoined their own people. Saul's 600 men who had been hiding suddenly found their courage. One man's obedience released a nation's victory. Your faith is never just about you. When you break a generational pattern, your children take notice. When you walk in boldness and see God move, your neighbors take notice. When your marriage is restored and your home reflects God's blessing, your community takes notice. God has positioned your breakthrough to be a beacon. Do not shrink back. The victory you walk in today may be the very thing that calls someone else back to God tomorrow.

Reading:

1 Samuel 14:20-23 NKJV

Then Saul and all the people who were with him assembled, and they went to the battle; and indeed everyman's sword was against his neighbor, and there was very great confusion. Moreover the Hebrews who were with the Philistines before that time, who went up with them into the camp from the surrounding country, they also joined the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.

Likewise all the men of Israel who had hidden in the mountains of Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, they also followed hard after them in the battle. So the Lord saved Israel that day, and the battle shifted to Beth Aven.

2 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Personal Reflection: How might your willingness to step out in faith impact the people around you who are watching but not yet ready to move themselves?

Practical Application: Share with one person this week -- a family member, coworker, or friend -- a specific testimony of what God has done or is doing in your life. Let your story be the spark that stirs their faith.