

FUTURE-SHAPING FAITH

By James Bradford

Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf.

Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few."

(1 Samuel 14:6)

1. Futures are shaped by steps of faith

Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf.

Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few."

(1 Samuel 14:6)

2. Jonathan knew that his weakness did not weaken God.

Jonathan said, "Come on, then; we will cross over toward them and let them see us. If they say to us, 'Wait there until we come to you,' we will stay where we are and not go up to them. But if they say, 'Come up to us,' we will climb up, because that will be our sign that the LORD has given them into our hands."

(1 Samuel 14:8-10)

3. Jonathan refused to live safely.

So both of them showed themselves to the Philistine outpost. "Look!" said the Philistines. "The Hebrews are crawling out of the holes they were hiding in." The men of the outpost shouted to Jonathan and his armor-bearer, "Come up to us and we'll teach you a lesson."

(1 Samuel 14:11,12)

Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him.

In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men

in an area of about half an acre.

(1 Samuel 14:13,14)

Then panic struck the whole army—those in the camp and field, and those in the outposts and raiding parties—and the ground shook. It was a panic sent by God.

(1 Samuel 14:15)

4. My risk ...