

The Uncommon Commitment of an Armor Bearer

1 Samuel 14:1-2, 6-7

¹ One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side." But he did not tell his father. ^{1SA 14:2} Saul was staying on the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree in Migron. With him were about six hundred men...

^{1SA 14:6} Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised fellows. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few." ^{1SA 14:7} **"Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said. "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."**

In this account, Jonathan shows himself to be a man of uncommon faith and trust in God, by his actions and the timeless, Godly principle he states, "Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few."

However, it is his armor bearer who shows another uncommon, even uncanny level of commitment and trust.

The nameless armor bearer of Jonathan says, "Do all that you have in mind, Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."

This statement is amazing, not only because of the odds that are pitted against these two adventurers, but even more so because of the nature of the armor bearer's position.

Jonathan is a valiant warrior, used to being in dangerous situation through battle, the armor bearer however isn't.

Armor bearers were often young boys, warrior want-to-bes. Their hope was that, one day, they too could grow up to be a mighty warrior like their masters were.

Their main job however was to keep the soldiers gear and fighting equipment in top shape and at the ready. The armor bearer saw to it that the warrior's sword was kept sharp and defect free. He was responsible for making sure the fighter's shield was in perfect condition, the heat of battle is no place to discover a crack in your shield or armor. The young boy would also see to the soldier's horse and other equipment used for the battle. It was an important support role but when it came time for the battle, it was the warrior who was out in front, not the armor bearer.

Jonathan's armor bearer commits his life to the spiritual goal that Jonathan has in mind... "Whatever it might be"! It's utterly amazing... he doesn't even know what he is

getting himself into, except that it will entail sure peril... yet he commits himself heart and soul!

If Jonathan gets killed in the battle, what will his armor bearer do? Fight? It would be a short one. Running away would probably be his better option, but how far would he get?

Yet he is willing to spend himself heart and soul, all that he is, all that is within him, all that he has or ever will have, completely at Jonathan's disposal.

That's the kind of attitude we need to have in the pursuit of our spiritual goals.

Spiritually speaking, Jesus is the warrior who is going out to battle. He calls to us and says, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side."

He is waiting to hear us say to him, **"Do all that you have in mind, Go ahead Lord; I am with you heart and soul."**