

## When Climbing seems impossible let's atleast crawl up!

*Jonathan said to his young armour 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. I Samuel 14,8.*

For the past couple of days the incident from I Samuel 14 has been running in my mind. Israel has just got a king and they did not have enough weapons. Only Saul and Jonathan had weapons at all. They did not have proper military training. But we see the enemy taunting them on all sides. They had all the strategic locations. They had advanced weapons.

All Jonathan had was a raw faith in his God and a trusted companion who said, " Go ahead I am with you heart and soul." He now dares to enter into the enemy territory who were on the hill top.

Jonathan still wanted a sign to strengthen himself and he decides in his mind that if the Philistines call them to their camp, then that will be the will of God. Usually when the enemy threatens, " Come and we will teach you a lesson.v.12," we tend to back off. But Jonathan took this apparent adverse beckoning as a sign and started climbing towards them.

Every situation ahead of him is hopeless. The enemy was on a mountain top, a vantage point. The enemy was enormous in number and they

only two. The way to reach the enemy camp is treacherous steep rock. We read that to reach the Philistine outpost they have to climb through a narrow strip between two sharp rocks called Bozez and Seneh.v.4. And they can only climb with both their hands and feet. "And Jonathan climbed upon his hands and knees with the armour bearer after him.v.13" That means that they cannot use the single personal weapon they had as they were climbing. They were utterly vulnerable in the open with the full sight of blood thirsty Philistines.

But this Jonathan as he begins to climb boldly proclaims, " Come up after me, for the Lord has delivered them into the hand of Israel.v.12"

Just as he went boldly taking the name of the Lord, literally crawling with all his strength, with only the protection of the Lord covering Him on all sides, the Lord's hand came down heavily on the enemy. Jonathan just started to climb and the enemy fell before him. His armour bearer went after Jonathan killing every one. Then there was a mighty earthquake. All the enemy soldiers start running. The Word of God beautifully describes that they melted away. From a distance even the frightened Israelites see their enemy fleeing and now they join the chase. But even before that the Philistines own sword is against the neighbour.v.20. Since no other Israelites had any weapon, the Lord accomplished the extermination

between themselves, by their own swords. What an awesome God!

Yeah my friends though there are steep rocks all around us, even though there are our enemies taunting and threatening us, let us still keep climbing the mountain. Even if there is no strength left in our legs to support us, let us fall on our knees and start climbing with our knees and hands. Even if you cannot pray just be on your knees. Even if you cannot walk crawl in the strength of the Lord. As we move ahead in darkness and hopelessness, in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, He will march ahead of us and rout the multitude ahead of us. Just go ahead. Do not stop. Keep going. Keep marching. Our Captain never leads an army which will be defeated.

*Listen to what Jesus said, "RISE UP AND WALK."*

*Dear Jesus, we are not tough to keep walking when the going gets tough, but we ask that you give us enough faith to fix our eyes on you and to walk patiently, steadily in the way you have marked for us. Give us the strength at least to crawl in extreme situations, for we always know you will fight the battle for us. Help us always fix our eyes on you Jesus. Give us the strength to rise up and walk. Amen. Amen.*