**Stepping Out in Faith**

<https://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/little-boy/how-faith-works?play=1>

1 Samuel 17:44-46 “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals!” David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.

So, the situation here is that the Philistines have proposed to send their toughest warrior against the Israelites' toughest warrior to settle a dispute in combat. Goliath taunted the Israelites twice a day for forty days.

Being that Saul was head and shoulders taller than anyone else (1 Samuel 10:23) and the anointed king, he would have been the best choice to battle Goliath. He probably would have won, if he had any faith at all, but he didn't go, neither did anyone else in the whole army, so, instead, we read about David.

David was a 16-year-old sheep herder. The youngest in his family of seven brothers. It had to a be a seriously one-sided looking fight to see a 16-year-old boy with a slingshot, walking out to fight a 9-foot tall giant whose coat of armor alone weighed up to 150 pounds and carrying a Sword and spear.

David walked out onto the battlefield alone while the army of Israel cowered in fear behind him. No one was willing to face this giant of a man called Goliath.

God called David to do this overwhelming task. A task that no other man in Israel’s trained army would take on. God had been preparing David for this moment while he was taking care of his sheep in the fields. David knew that the same God that had delivered Him in the past would deliver him again.

1 Samuel 17:37 David said, 'God who delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.' …

The common tasks that you deal with every day prepare you for the bigger things in life. If you are faithful in your walk with God and doing the things he ask for you to do with the abilities He has given you to do them then, when it is your time to shine, He will be there to see you through.

Luke 16:10  “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much

So, When David heard Goliath's words, he showed no fear and said, 'Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?' ( 1 Samuel 17:26) and then David stepped out in faith to fight the Giant.  
  
When David stepped out to meet him, Goliath began to hurl insults and curses at him. But David spoke in faith that God would deliver Goliath into his hand and that today he would cut off his head. David then proceeded to do just what he said that he would do. David demonstrated faith in action and wrote: 'I have put my trust in God. I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?' (Psalms 56:11).  
  
When the Lord gives you an opportunity to step out in faith, like David, we should say 'The Lord is my helper. I will not fear. What can man do to me?' (Hebrews 13:6). We should not focus on our own abilities but trust God to provide all that you need when you need it.

This is the path of promotion. God is the one that makes it happen, you just have to put one foot in front of the other and keep moving with a positive attitude. Stay the course. Keep moving forward. Trust God and don't give up.

We find another great example in 1 Samuel 14:6 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.”

Greatly outnumbered, Saul and about 600 Israelites were cowering in fear from the Philistines who had come against them. Only king Saul and his son Jonathan had a sword amongst the entire Israelite army, while the Philistines had thirty thousand chariots as well as six thousand horsemen (1Samuel 13:5). The people who were following Saul were trembling with fear. Some hid in rocks and caves, while others fled the country entirely.  
  
Jonathan, who trusted the Lord, gathered his courage, told his shield bearer that 'nothing restrains the Lord from saving, by many or by few.' (1 Samuel 14:6) They went boldly to the Philistine garrison and started the battle. When he did, God sent a panic amongst the Philistines and they began to attack each other. As the Philistines turned on each other in confusion, Saul and the rest of the Israelite army joined in the battle and Israel won a great victory that day.  
  
Nothing changes until someone takes a step in faith. **If you want to see something that you have never seen before, you may have to do something that you have never done before.** God waited for someone to step out in faith and lead, and when they did, He backed them up completely.   
  
Jonathan had to leave his fear behind and trust the Lord to win the battle. David, alone, would face Goliath, but he was all that was needed. God uses impossible situations to show his glory. God just needs one obedient person, who would step out in Faith and trust Him, to change the world around them, like Peter stepping out on the water. If you feel the Lord calling you to do something, take the risk and then He will back you up.

A young woman named Esther was once faced with a decision that required her to step out in faith:

Esther 4:11-12 “All the king’s officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.”

Esther, who was a Jew, was safely living in a royal palace as a queen of Persia. She had hidden her family's jewish identity and was selected by the King to become his next Queen after Vashti, the 1st queen, was banished for her refusal to appear at the king's banquet to show her beauty as the king wished.

Then one day her uncle Mordecai sent her word to go and speak with the king. He wanted her to try and obtain mercy for her people. But Esther knew she could not go into the king's chamber without being summoned

Esther 4:11-14 “All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days.” When Esther’s words were reported to Mordecai, he sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

When Esther hesitated to take the message to the king, her uncle Mordecai told her that if she did not go, the Lord would send someone else. If that had happened, we would be reading about someone else who saved the nation of Israel.

Esther was just a young girl and very scared, but she put her Faith in God and said: 'If I perish, I perish.' After fasting and praying for three days and nights, she went in to meet the king and ended up saving her people. The Jews still a holiday called 'Purim' that commemorates this event. 

Daniel 3:16-18 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. **But even if he does not**, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

It is easy to be strong when there is nothing to be afraid of, but faith is tested in the furnace like refined gold (Psalm 12:6). In Daniel 3 we find King Nebuchadnezzar had built a golden idol ninety feet high and commanded everyone in his kingdom to bow down and worship it. Three Israelites, Shadrach Meshach and Abednego, refused and told the king that the God they served was able to deliver them, but even if He did not, they would not bow down to his god. (What a great response) When faced with great evil and certain destruction, they chose to trust God and step out in Faith. In the end, God did deliver them and they were promoted in the kingdom.

* **When in difficult times remember Jesus is there in the fire with you**

Do not cower back from whatever you have to face today, for you are here for a purpose, “for such a time as this”. If God is for you, who can stand against you? (Romans 8:31) If you withdraw, God will send someone else, but you will miss out on what He has in store for you and all the blessings to follow. So, stand strong, know that God is with you, and that you are able to face whatever comes your way.

* **When difficult times come it's not time to whine, but time to shine**

This doesn’t mean that we should make carless decisions or take needless risk that can harm us. But if we put God before us and we follow him where ever he leads us, seeking answers in prayer and his word, then God will show us when we need to step up and out in action.

**Take the first step in faith and watch God go to work**

A few examples:

* Gideon who won a victory over a 135000-man Midianite army despite a vast disadvantage, leading a troop of 300 men.
* Noah built a boat, despite the ridicule from the neighbors, to save humanity.
* Daniel who continued praying knowing he could be thrown to the lions.
* The Disciples & Paul who gave their lives to spread the new of Jesus resurrection.

There have also been many martyrs of the faith who have given their lives to glorify God and spread the good news of the Bible.

# Luke 17:33 Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.

# How do you know when God is calling you to step out in faith?

# You may feel a sense of urgency to do something that requires trust

# You may feel God is asking you to surrender something your hanging onto

# You may be the only person equipped to do the thing being requested

# Or you may just know that you are the only one that will do it, equipped or not, and it needs to be done.

John Wayne once said that 'Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway.'

Comedian George Carlin once said “life’s journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways totally worn out and shouting what a Ride

In other words, saddle up and follow Jesus wherever he takes you but be prepared to hang on for the ride of your life

Something to think about in Closing: David, Esther, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego risked losing their life for doing the right thing and there are many others in the bible who stepped out in faith despite huge risk to themselves.

God doesn’t always bring things about the way you and I think He should but that is all part of faith. Knowing that He knows best.

# What is God calling you to do? Maybe it would hurt your reputation, Pride, Wallet, time, or maybe your life. What decision will you make?

Assignment: Read Hebrews 11