

1 Samuel 14:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him.

Analysis

And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him.

Jonathan's climb 'upon his hands and upon his feet' pictures the physical difficulty of the ascent. The immediate result - 'they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him' - describes devastating effectiveness. Jonathan strikes; his armor-bearer follows to finish the fallen. The climbing attack succeeds beyond any tactical explanation. God's power flows through human obedience, turning what should be slaughter of climbers into rout of defenders. Two men overthrow a garrison through faith.

Historical Context

The technique described - lead warrior wounding, following warrior killing - was efficient ancient combat method. Jonathan's ability to strike effectively while completing a difficult climb suggests supernatural enablement. The garrison's inability to repel two climbing attackers indicates divine confusion among the defenders.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God multiply effectiveness when we act in faith-driven obedience?
2. What impossible 'climbs' is God calling you to attempt?

Interlinear Text

וְעַל	עַל	יְהִי	עַל	יְהִי	עַל	יְהִי
climbed up	And Jonathan	H5921	upon his hands	H5921	and upon his feet	H7272
H5927	H3129		H3027			
וְנִשְׁאָל	אַחֲרֵי	כָּל	לִפְלָל	אַפְתָּמָה	לִפְנֵי	וְנִשְׁאָל
and his armourbearer	after	him and they fell	before	And Jonathan		
H5375	H3627	H310	H5307	H6440	H3129	
וְנִשְׁאָל	אַחֲרֵי	מִמְוֹת	כָּל	וְנִשְׁאָל		
and his armourbearer	slew	after				
H5375	H3627	H4191	H310			

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