

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

וַיַּעַל	וְיֹנָתָן	עַל	יָדָיו	וְעַל	רַגְלָיו
climbed up	And Jonathan		upon his hands		and upon his feet
H5927	H3129	H5921	H3027	H5921	H7272
וְנִשְׂא	כָּל יוֹ	אַחֲרָיו:	וַפָּלוּ	לִפְנֵי י	וְיֹנָתָן
and his armourbearer		after	him and they fell	before	And Jonathan
H5375	H3627	H310	H5307	H6440	H3129
וְנִשְׂא	כָּל יוֹ	מָמוּתָת	אַחֲרָיו:		
and his armourbearer		slew	after		
H5375	H3627	H4191	H310		