

# 1 Samuel 14:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them.

## Analysis

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**If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them.**

The first possible response - 'Tarry until we come to you' - would indicate waiting, not advancing. Jonathan interprets this as a sign to 'stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them.' The Hebrew *amad* ('stand still') suggests maintaining position without retreat but without advance. Jonathan builds flexibility into his sign-seeking: he is willing to accept either outcome as God's direction. True faith submits to divine guidance rather than manipulating signs to confirm predetermined desires.

## Historical Context

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The Philistines' response 'Tarry until we come to you' would represent a typical defensive challenge - maintaining position while sending troops to investigate. This would give Philistines time to organize a proper response to the intruders.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How do you respond when God's guidance indicates waiting rather than advancing?
2. What makes 'standing still' an act of faith rather than passivity?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּגַעַת כֹּו עַד אָמֵן כִּי הַ אָמֵן  
H518 H3541 If they say H413 thus unto us Tarry H5704 until we come  
H559 H1826 H5060

אַלְיָכָם עַמְּךָ דָּנָו עַמְּךָ דָּנָו  
H413 to you then we will stand still H8478 H3808  
H5975

אַלְיָקְמָן תַּעַל הַ  
in our place and will not go up H413  
H5927

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