

How Can I Be a Giant Slayer Like David?

Warriors of God Series

1 Chronicles 14:17: (NASB) Then the fame of David went out into all the lands; and the LORD brought the fear of him on all the nations.



What do you envision when you think of a warrior? Someone engaged in conflict or struggle? A soldier, discipline, a fighter, training, bravery? King David was one of history's great warriors. He possessed all of those warrior attributes, yet he was also a shepherd, poet, musician and songwriter. He was tenderhearted and humble. He was faithful and loyal to God, yet guilty of serious breaches of the confidence God had placed in him. He ascended up to the heights but also descended down to the depths. He gained Divine approval in many things and also received severe Divine condemnation. He was wholly devoted

to God but also indulged in the sins of the flesh. David's story is the story of every man, illustrating what God can do with our weaknesses and failures.

Our last few months of podcasts have been pretty heavy - burnout, the coronavirus, anxiety, depression, and coming up we are planning a very important episode on racism. We thought this would be a good time to recenter, rebalance, refill and get strong in order to get back out into the world. There are so many relevant lessons for us today from the life of David. Over the next few weeks, we are going to dive into six stories from his life and peel back the onion to uncover deeper lessons from the stories we thought we knew so well or maybe what we remember hearing about from Sunday school or Bible class. The lessons we encountered while preparing for this podcast definitely stopped us in our tracks, so we are excited to share them with our listeners.



Many stories about David are great for children to learn about. We have created two very special **CQ Kids videos: Who Was David? (Parts I and II)** found at ChristianQuestions.com/youtube. There you will find an entire library of CQ Kids videos for kids, parents, homeschoolers or Bible class teachers.

David's life was filled with killing and war. He was responsible both directly and indirectly for hundreds of thousands of deaths. He was authentic to the time in which he lived. *While we acknowledge the authenticity of David's time and place as being part of the barbaric culture of the Old Testament, we do not condone it.*

According to the Life Application Study Bible, "David's job was to unify and lead Israel and destroy its enemies. This would require David to shed a great deal of blood."



For more on the authenticity of the time and the brutality in the Old Testament, please see CQ Episodes 779 and 783: Does the Same God Rule in the Old and New Testament? (Parts I and II).



Why study the life of David?

1. The Bible provides many individual stories about all phases of his life.
2. The Bible repeatedly says Jesus is David's descendant. We see that many of the experiences and writings of David represent the life of Jesus. (Matthew 1:1, Revelation 22:16, 2 Timothy 2:8).
3. He is referenced many times in the New Testament and is hailed as a hero of faith in Hebrews 11:32.
4. He is described as *a man after God's own heart*. This makes David worth studying and emulating because any Christian should want this description said about them.

David epitomized bravery, but he also experienced fear. Bravery is boldness in the midst of fear:

Psalms 55:5,6: (NASB) ⁵ *Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror has overwhelmed me.*
⁶ *I said, Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.*

David epitomized loyalty and faith. The prophet Samuel proclaimed that David was *a man after God's own heart*.

1 Samuel 13:14: (NASB) *But now your kingdom (Saul's kingdom) shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.*

King Saul's reign and his favor given from God were going to end because he was disobedient to God.



We recommend reading 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel. Consider using an easy-to-read translation to get a feel for the stories. There are many rich details we will not have time to cover.

The first king of Israel, Saul, is on the throne but because of crucial disobedience, God tells him through the prophet Samuel that he was going to lose his kingdom eventually. Samuel anointed young David, the prospective king of Israel. It would be many years until he actually became king. Once anointed, he went back to tending his sheep and through a series of events finds himself in the court of Saul as a royal musician, playing music for King Saul to soothe his temper. At the beginning of Saul's reign, he obeyed God and prospered militarily. But then he started doing things his own way and began to be defeated by Israel's enemies, often the Philistines. Saul started to become bitter, quick-tempered, unsure of himself and very paranoid. It is at this point we are going to start our story. It is easy to see that trouble lies ahead.

**David is obviously a very young man, who is chosen of God.
How does he end up fighting a giant?**

In all experiences of life, there are unexpected twists and turns. King Saul was now on the path to losing God's favor, but that did not mean Israel had to go down that same road. David would be the man tasked with holding Israel close to God. This arduous journey was to begin with a giant challenge.

Israel was in trouble. The Philistines had such tight control over Israel that at one point they had a complete monopoly on iron smelting in order to prevent them from making weapons.

The Hebrews had to go into Philistine territory to get farm implements sharpened and were charged a high price:

1 Samuel 13:19-21: (NASB) ¹⁹Now no blacksmith could be found in all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said, Otherwise the Hebrews will make swords or spears. ²⁰So all Israel went down to the Philistines, each to sharpen his plowshare, his mattock, his axe, and his hoe. ²¹The charge was two-thirds of a shekel for the plowshares, the mattocks, the forks, and the axes, and to fix the hoes.

This gives us an insight into just how beaten down Israel was, where they are so completely controlled by the Philistines that they cannot even sharpen their own farm equipment, let alone be able to make weapons. What is the deal with these Philistines?

The following audio clip describes why the Philistines were such a problem for Israel, and specifically for Saul.

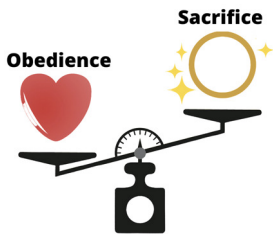


King David of Israel, Albert O. Hudson

The Philistines had always been a thorn in the side of Israel. From the days of the entry into the land, they had been there, occupying the strip of land along the seacoast more or less in the area that is now known as the Gaza Strip. They were an alien race, hailing from the island of Crete, tall, muscular men arrayed in armor and equipped with weapons that the Hebrews could not equal. Saul had already had one encounter with them, in the early part of his reign, in which he gained the victory so that there was a period of peace from their attacks. Unfortunately, on that occasion he had exceeded his authority in the matter of offering a sacrifice to the Lord and Samuel had strongly reproved him. Then he had what appears to be a second chance when he went out to do battle with the Amalekites from the southern desert. Again, he was found guilty of flagrant disobedience, and it was on this occasion that it is said the Lord formally disowned him. Now he was faced with the Philistine menace again but this time the Lord was not with him and he knew it. The victory this time, if victory there was to be, must be gained by his own might and that of his army. It must have been with a heavy heart that Saul prepared for the conflict.



■ = A rough approximate map of the lands inhabited by Israelites or under *direct* central royal administration during the United Monarchy (according to the Bible). This is basically what is referred to by the recurring Biblical phrase "from Dan to Beersheba". ■ = The central core of ancient Judea. This area was part of a Jewish kingdom, or a Jewish province within a larger empire, almost continuously from the days of King David down to 135 CE.



This gives us an important sense of why we are going to find Saul so indecisive on the battlefield and unable to lead or inspire his men against the Philistines. He knew he was no longer in God's favor and it seems like he just froze, anticipating he would lose because he was on his own. Saul had two chances; but again, he was found guilty of flagrant disobedience.

Please refer to CQ Episode 1128: Is Obedience More Important Than Sacrifice?

Our theme Scripture showed Samuel telling Saul *to obey is better than sacrifice*. Proverbs 21:2-3: (NASB) ²*Every man's way is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts.* ³*To do righteousness and justice is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice.*

The teenaged David was too young to fight in the army (1 Samuel 17:23-54), but his father asked him to take provisions to his brothers who were fighting on the frontlines.

Why was there a fight between David and Goliath while two huge armies sat on opposite sides staring at each other? Apparently, sometimes armies in this era would pit their strongest warriors against each other, in order to save bloodshed. The winner of the one contest would be the winner of the battle.

Goliath the Philistine taunted Israel, challenging their best warrior to such a fight:

1 Samuel 17:16: (New Living Translation) *For forty days, twice a day, morning and evening, the Philistine giant strutted in front of the Israelite army.*



Few things are more persistent and intimidating than the giants of our fears and our worries. Giants might also be pride, distrust, doubt and skepticism – downward tendencies of our flesh that must be beheaded. If we tolerate a Goliath, he will move into our camp, dominate our thoughts and push out our focus on God. We cannot afford to tolerate giants; we need to kill them.



We know the story: David went to King Saul and convinced him to let him fight. David took five smooth stones from a stream and hit Goliath on the first try with his slingshot. Goliath fell to the ground and David used Goliath's own sword to cut off his head. God guided David's hand with the slingshot and stone to hit Goliath in the one vulnerable place that was not protected by his helmet.



David had the courage to let God fulfill His will. Turning things over to God takes courage, which is a great lesson for us.

David's continual faith delivered him in highly unlikely situations. Our continual faith can deliver us as well. We have battles in life where Satan is working on our minds.

But the interesting part is in the details of David's motivation to take such a risk:

1 Samuel 17:26: (NASB) *...who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should taunt the armies of the living God?*

David, a young teenager, is personally offended that someone would go up against God and His people. This shows the core of David's strength.

What a difference there was between Saul and David. King Saul had lost his faith and confidence. Goliath was strutting for 40 days and nights demoralizing the army, but David is the one who fights for *the living God*, not the king. David's focus was on God, not on Goliath.

David spoke up - here he presented his case to King Saul to let him fight Goliath himself:


1 Samuel 17:36-37: (NASB) *³⁶Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God. ³⁷And David said, The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and may the LORD be with you.*



Artist: Pietro da Cortona 1596-1669
David killing the Lion - David snatches from the lion's mouth a lamb


- David establishes his loyalty to the king.
- He recites his past valor and his fearlessness of anyone who taunts God.
- He is unequivocal in his faith in God delivering him and his people from this Philistine.

David might have been thinking: What giant? The only giant in my life is God. That is a dwarf over there, Saul. God looks on the heart. He is omnipotent. If He is on my side, I cannot lose! He remembered how God gave him victories over the lion and the bear, and it gave him the courage to face Goliath.



A GIANT LESSON:

Most of us can recite the failures of our lives in vivid detail, but not the victories God has pulled off in our past.



Why is it we remember our failures and not our victories? Is it a bad thing to remember our victories, or is it pride?

Most of us can recite our failures. Victories in the past are deliverances from God. Praise God for those victories! David focused on how God continually delivered him. He knew God would deliver him again for an appropriate cause against an enemy who mocked God.



David's confidence at such a young age reminds us of Jesus when he was 12 years old in the temple talking with the doctors of the Law. Both David and Jesus were putting God first.

With nothing to lose, Saul allows David to fight. David went to meet his foe, and Goliath sneered at David and cursed him by the names of his gods.

Goliath was probably about nine feet tall. Perhaps David was 5'5" to 5'8" tall.

To help with a visual of height difference: When we used to do our program from the radio station, Fred was our "guy behind the board" and a wonderful servant of God. Fred is about 6'4". I am about 5'4". It is hilarious because I look like his 12-year-old son.



This would be an ominous difference. David was not driven by the size of Goliath; he was driven by the strength of God's providence in his hand.

David stood in faith:

1 Samuel 17:45: (NASB) *Then David said to the Philistine, You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted.*

Goliath was defying God and taunting His people. God was the source of David's power. There are times when we must battle forces that oppose God and the truth in a face-to-face manner.

The army of Israel looked at Goliath through the eyes of man and said he's too big to beat. David looked at him through the eyes of God and said he's too big to miss. — Anonymous



A GIANT LESSON:



David's eyes were not on the giant; they were fixed on God.

For more on the David and Goliath story, please see CQ Episode 929: How Do You Define "Hero"?

For each David lesson, we want to briefly look at the corresponding piece of the Armor of God provided for the Christian's battle:

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Ephesians 6:17 tells us about **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**. 1 Thessalonians 5:8 calls it **THE HELMET OF THE HOPE OF SALVATION**. The helmet protects our head, our mind, our intellect; it is the control center for the entire soldier. How fitting that this protection is made of salvation, because we must have an intellectual acceptance and understanding of the ransom of Jesus on our behalf. With this understanding in place, we are able to truly focus on the battle at hand.

God's justice was an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. A perfect man for a perfect man was required by God to fulfill justice. Adam disobeyed and brought sin and death to all mankind. Jesus fulfilled the Law perfectly and at his death that payment ransomed Adam and his posterity.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22: (NASB) *For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.*

1 Timothy 2:6: (NASB) *Who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.*

For more on the ransom and salvation, please see CQ Episode 1086: Are Jesus' Ransom and Our Salvation the Same?

Also, check out our CQ Kids video: Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

If we believe our salvation is guaranteed and understand *why* it is guaranteed, it gives us a certain confidence we would not otherwise have, making hope more of a reality. David had complete confidence in God's victory. We should have complete confidence in God's victory!

A correct understanding is so important because it creates a solid confidence in what we believe:

Hebrews 11:1: (Phillips) *Now faith means that we have full confidence in the things we hope for, it means being certain of things we cannot see.*

This is a perfect description of the **HELMET**. Hope is based on faith. It all works together to protect our outlook.



David trusted that God would give him the victory. Our hope of victory comes when we trust God's promises.



There was a physical fight here against Goliath - a fight for life. The lesson of that battle was in his mind. How does that relate to us?

David's battle was a battle of the mind to overcome the size of the enemy. David used the tools provided by God to help him defeat the enemy. In our lives, we are also given tools by God to help us defeat the enemy.

The faith and courage that David displayed was uncanny. He was a dramatic example of faith in action.

David is now officially a giant slayer! Who would now join with him as he continued to serve God?

After defeating Goliath, David was made a permanent member of the king's entourage. 1 Samuel 18:5 tells us David was appointed as supreme commander over all of Saul's army. This young man had proven his godly faith, loyalty and courage, and was now becoming a household name in all of Israel. His great faith produced a great result.

It was during this time that David and Saul's son Jonathan formed a close and valuable friendship.

It is only the great-hearted who can be true friends. The mean and cowardly can never know what true friendship means.

— Charles Kingsley

The "great-hearted" David found this unlikely best friend - the son of the man who was so jealous and paranoid that he tried to kill David several times.

**CHOOSING THE RIGHT FRIENDS CAN SAVE OUR LIFE, IN MORE THAN ONE WAY.
WITH GODLY FRIENDS, WE ARE NOT IN THIS ALONE.**

A true friend is like a great tree that shelters us against the blast of lonely winds.

— Charles R. Swindoll

The friendship of David and Jonathan would come to epitomize true friendship. Both had unquestionable integrity and loyalty for each other.

For Jonathan of the Bible, meeting David was like "friendship at first sight." For those of you who do not know the history of Jonathan and me, this is exactly what happened with us. The day we met we became fast friends. We met





at a Bible seminar. It was the first time Jonathan attended one of the seminars, and I was the director. There was a strong camaraderie within the first five minutes.

I was into popular music at that time and thought Rick looked like (the musician) Cat Stevens. But the connection came when we had our first honest and intense conversation. When we had that conversation, I had no idea Rick was in charge of the seminar.

1 Samuel 18:1-5: (NASB) *¹Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself. ²Saul took him that day and did not let him return to his father's house. ³Then Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, including his sword and his bow and his belt. ⁵So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and prospered; and Saul set him over the men of war. And it was pleasing in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.*

What did Jonathan see in this low-born young warrior? He saw faith, courage, loyalty and passion - all driven by a heart for God.

In verse 3 it says, *Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself*. We have talked about covenants before on this program and came up with this definition: "A covenant is a promise to transfer a stated intention into a reality. It is usually made with a ceremony and invokes God." Marriage is an example of a covenant between two people. God treats covenants in Scripture with utmost sacredness and importance. This "covenant friendship" of David and Jonathan is thought to be the most fully described friendship in the Bible. If you want to learn how to be a true friend, study them. We will look at the friendship of David and Jonathan a little more closely in the next segment.

Besides the covenant, what did the friendship gestures of Jonathan reveal?



Giving David his robe: Showed the giving up of position. Jonathan gave his rightful place as next in line for the throne, recognizing David as God's chosen.



Giving David his sword, bow and belt: He arrayed David as a kingly soldier and protector of Israel.

It would be about another 20 years before David actually took the throne. It is in this way *the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David*. Jonathan and David both loved and honored God.

Jonathan cared about godliness, and when we care about godliness over any position in life, our loyalty can then be pure.

As good as things started out for David, they began to change after Saul and David returned victorious from a battle.



The citizens of Israel praised the heroes and protectors of God's people:

1 Samuel 18:7-9: (NASB) ⁷The women sang as they played, and said, Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. ⁸Then Saul became very angry, for this saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom? ⁹Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on.

Saul knew his time was limited. His rage came against his own incompetence. Samuel the prophet told King Saul that God had left him. Were the women purposely trying to offend the king?

They were probably happy and thinking King Saul had a great warrior on his side. He found this young man who killed his ten thousands and all because God was protecting them. Of course, because Saul had become paranoid, he did not take it that way and looked at David with suspicion from that day on.

Saul would throw a javelin at David on at least three occasions

(1 Samuel 18:11, 19:10 and 20:33). Saul demoted David from being in command of 330,000 men to just 1000, but DAVID STAYED LOYAL.

Saul's attitude should have been: Look what an amazing commander I have in my army leading us all to victory.

According to 1 Samuel 18:16 (NASB), all Israel and Judah loved David, yet he would not be provoked into retaliation because he was loyal to Saul, the Lord's anointed. He waited for God's time to take the throne no matter how threatening Saul became. In David's mind, his position was unimportant; his loyalty to God was his priority.

Loyalty is no small thing. It is a determination to stand with or for someone that is continually demonstrated. Throughout their friendship, Jonathan and David continued their fierce loyalty. One instance of this covenant was in 1 Samuel 20:13-17 (covered in the next segment).

Here is another:

1 Samuel 23:15-18: (NASB) ¹⁵Now David became aware that Saul had come out to seek his life while David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. ¹⁶And Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David at Horesh, and encouraged him in God. ¹⁷Thus he said to him, Do not be afraid, because the hand of Saul my father will not find you, and you will be king over Israel and I will be next to you; and Saul my father knows that also. ¹⁸So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD; and David stayed at Horesh while Jonathan went to his house.

True loyalty fiercely and firmly protects the well-being of your friend!



Interesting side point: David had multiple wives but only one covenant of friendship.



By themselves, godly faith and valor are formidable.

When we add the inspirational and practical power of true friendship, we create a focused momentum that sustains us through drought and discouragement.

The power of friendship, fellowship and co-laboring binds us together. We can accomplish more by working together than on our own.

Jonathan's friendship with David was transformational. It fed David's desire to always stand firm for God.

Loyalty is powerful! How do we handle being in contact with those who would hurt our friend?

While we are focusing on the life of David, we absolutely need to pause and consider the example of Jonathan. This man was extraordinary! We have already seen his dedication to God and to David in action. We will now see his loyalty tested by the authority and power of his father, King Saul.

Jonathan, as the king's son, is loyal to the king's perceived enemy. What an unusual position!



Jonathan had a godly loyalty and saved David's life by convincing his father not to have him killed:

1 Samuel 19:1-6: (NASB) ¹Now Saul told Jonathan his son and all his servants to put David to death. But Jonathan, Saul's son, greatly delighted in David. ²So Jonathan told David saying, Saul my father is seeking to put you to death. Now therefore, please be on guard in the morning, and stay in a secret place and hide yourself. ³I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak with my father about you; if I find out anything, then I will tell you. ⁴Then Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, Do not let the king sin against his servant David, since he has not sinned against you, and since his deeds have been very beneficial to you. ⁵For he took his life in his hand and struck the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great deliverance for all Israel; you saw it and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by putting David to death without a cause?

Jonathan challenged his father not to commit a sin.

⁶Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan, and Saul vowed, As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death.



Jonathan boldly appealed to Saul's reason, godliness and morality. Godly loyalty appeals to godliness.

Jonathan honored his father and protected his friend at the same time by provoking his father towards righteousness. Jonathan helped him to see what was right in God's eyes. He was loyal to David because David would be king

and had done nothing wrong. Jonathan supported righteousness in David to honor him. He pointed out unrighteousness in his father to honor Saul.

Saul's promise was short-lived. Saul again pursued David, who went into hiding.

Jonathan was ready to do whatever would help:

1 Samuel 20:4: (NASB) *Then Jonathan said to David, Whatever you say, I will do for you.*



Godly loyalty stands ready and willing to do whatever it takes.

Both Jonathan and David recognized and joyfully acquiesced to God's will. Jonathan recognized it was God's will that David's family would be the chosen line of kingship. David, he waited patiently on the Lord for decades before he became the rightful king. This joy in the Lord is the core of their friendship. We do not see them commiserating about how unfair their individual circumstances were. They both waited for God to unfold what was ultimately the best plan for them and wanted to stay in line with those plans.

We want to be the kind of friend that constantly steers our friends along biblical principles and to find joy, regardless of the circumstances. We can get caught up in feeding into an environment of selfishness and discontent. We should always be pointing them upwards.

Jonathan did not believe Saul wanted to kill David, but reminds him of their covenant:

1 Samuel 20:11-17: (The Message) ¹¹⁻¹⁷*Come outside, said Jonathan. Let's go to the field. When the two of them were out in the field, Jonathan said, As GOD, the God of Israel, is my witness, by this time tomorrow I'll get it out of my father how he feels about you. Then I'll let you know what I learn. May GOD do His worst to me if I let you down! If my father still intends to kill you, I'll tell you and get you out of here in one piece. And GOD be with you as He's been with my father! If I make it through this alive, continue to be my covenant friend. And if I die, keep the covenant friendship with my family - forever. And when GOD finally rids the earth of David's enemies, stay loyal to Jonathan! Jonathan repeated his pledge of love and friendship for David. He loved David more than his own soul!*



Jonathan's godly loyalty boldly put himself on the line before his friend and before God.

Jonathan did not have to do this. No one would have known. What can we, as Christians, learn from Jonathan's character?

Some of our greatest faithfulness tests happen when no one knows, but God does, and He looks at the heart.

Jonathan is a great example of a heart beating for God, loyalty and the upholding of righteous principles. Even though doing the right thing might have cost him his life, Jonathan did not care. We need to step forward and always do the right thing.

Jonathan and David devised a test. A festival was starting, and when David did not show up for two days, Jonathan told Saul that David was in Bethlehem with his family.

Saul now shows his true colors:

1 Samuel 20:30-33: (NASB) ³⁰Then Saul's anger burned against Jonathan and he said to him, *You son of a perverse, rebellious woman!... ³¹For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom will be established. Therefore now, send and bring him to me, for he must surely die.*

Even in his madness, Saul knows the truth of his own disobedience and desertion of God:

³²But Jonathan answered Saul his father and said to him, *Why should he be put to death? What has he done?* ³³Then Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him down; so Jonathan knew that his father had decided to put David to death.



In his rage, Saul tries to kill his own son! Jonathan protected David; the Lord's anointed.

True godly loyalty does not back down and will risk one's own life.

Jonathan now truly comprehends David is in grave danger and warns him. They say goodbye and again repeat their covenant of loyalty to each other:

1 Samuel 20:42: (NASB) *Jonathan said to David, Go in safety, inasmuch as we have sworn to each other in the name of the LORD, saying, The LORD will be between me and you, and between my descendants and your descendants forever. Then he rose and departed, while Jonathan went into the city.*

Jonathan initiated the covenant, the conversations and the reminders, even though he was not the one who would get the glory - it was all about David who would ultimately fulfill God's will of becoming the next king. Jonathan helped the one who would fulfill God's will by protecting him, even if it would cost him his own life.

David would become a fugitive for about five years. He and Jonathan only saw each other once more, shortly before Jonathan's death in battle.

Jonathan's incredible loyalty preserved David during this difficult time. He was the only one with the needed access and influence of the king.



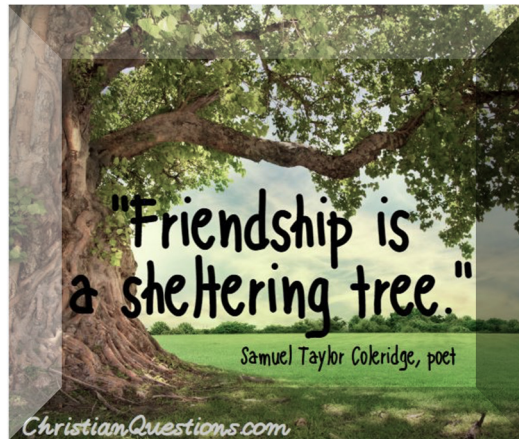
**We are not just friends when things are going our way.
True, enduring, godly friendship and loyalty appear when
life is having its most tenuous moments. We should see our
important relationships as long-term, God-based, loyal commitments.**

We want to hold up our brothers and sisters in Christ to help them faithfully do what they were called to do.

Jonathan's example is profoundly inspirational. There is no time like the present for us to become Jonathans.

**We can see that godly loyalty protects life.
How did David use this loyalty while separated from Jonathan?**

It is one thing to have loyalty to a friend, but it is another to be an example of and provoke loyalty in others. This is not easy, as the kind of loyalty we have been observing is far loftier than the average person is generally inclined to give. Still, when you have it, you should show others how it works.



(Source: <https://www.insight.org/resources/article-library/individual/a-sheltering-tree>, Pastor Chuck Swindoll, June 15, 2009.) But of all the trees God placed beside His choice servants, one human redwood looms the largest, in my opinion. David was hunted and haunted by madman Saul. Between Saul and David, however, stood a sheltering tree named Jonathan. Loyal and dependable, Jonathan assured David, “Whatever you say, I will do for you” (1 Samuel 20:4). No limits. No conditions. No bargain. No reservations. Best of all, when things were at their worst, he “went to David...and encouraged him in God” (23:16). Why? Because he was committed to the basic principles of a friendship. Because he loved him as he loved himself (18:1). It was the kind of love that causes men to lay down their lives for their friends, as Jesus put it (John 15:13). No greater love exists on this globe.

“Friendship is a sheltering tree,” and as an example of a sheltering tree, Jonathan was a redwood. What a beautiful picture! We realize the depth of being willing to give up our lives for our friends. Jesus said it so precisely and profoundly, *greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends*. Then Jesus says, *and you are my friends*. Jesus is saying: There is no greater love than this, and I have it for you. Stay with me; be loyal to me as I am being loyal to you.



**Associate with people who have similar morals and spiritual goals.
Friends impact our lives. Keep those friends who encourage you to
become a godly person. Disreputable friends can too easily corrupt you.
1 Corinthians 15:33: Do not be deceived. Bad company corrupts good morals.**

What a powerful example Jonathan brings to us to show us a glimpse of the loyalty of Jesus.

The friends we have really impact our lives. We need to have a sense of the importance of being a friend, having godly loyalty so we can build others up. We also need to choose the friends who build *us* up, who encourage *us* to be godly in our lives.



Think about how easily weeds invade a lawn or a garden bed. The longer we allow them to grow, the more they take over the space, crowding out the vegetables, flowers or grass we want to grow. Diligent attention in removing these ungodly influences and replacing them with friends with similar morals and spiritual goals - who point us up towards God - keeps our lives harmonious with God's will for us.

David was now alone. He no longer had that loyal friend next to him, building him up. We need one another. We are admonished in Hebrews 10:25 to *not forsake assembling together* to encourage one another spiritually so that we keep our godly focus.

Everybody wants loyalty, consistency and someone who will not quit. But everybody forgets that to get that person, you have to be that person. — Anonymous

David and Jonathan were like twins in seeking *God first* and in pouring that loyalty of *God first* into one another. Jonathan was quite a bit older than David and seemed to be almost a mentor as well as a friend. They are now separated, and we will see David took the lesson of loyalty from Jonathan and showed it to others.

In the next several chapters of David's life, he was on the run from King Saul. Twice he had the opportunity to easily take Saul's life and claim the throne of Israel. Twice he not only refrained, he also proclaimed he would not bring harm to God's anointed. David's loyalty to God is unmistakable.

With godly friends, you are not in this alone!

One example of David living in a loyal and godly way was in 1 Samuel 30. The Amalekites, another of Israel's bitter enemies, had raided one of the territories of Judah and taken many spoils, all of the women and all of the



children as captives. David sees it is God's will to pursue them and decides to leave 200 of his 600 men behind as they are too exhausted to fight. This is not the first time he did this.

Compassionate loyalty! He certainly would have learned this from Jonathan.

With victory in hand, David was adamant that those who stayed behind to guard the equipment would share in the plunder (1 Samuel 25:13, 1 Samuel 30:21-25). Some *wicked and worthless men* in David's army said those who did not actually do the fighting should not receive anything except their families back.

But David was adamant:

1 Samuel 30:23-25: (NASB) ²³Then David said, You must not do so, my brothers, with what the LORD has given us, who has kept us and delivered into our hand the band that came against us. ²⁴And who will listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes down to the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage; they shall share alike. ²⁵So it has been from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.

Not only did he do this for that moment, but he established it for all time. Whatever your part is, we all share in it equally. Where did he learn how to do this? He learned it from Jonathan, who was that loyal to him.

The wicked men said: This is ours. David said: No, this is what the Lord has given us. Do we look through selfish eyes or the eyes of godliness? They were all in this together. Each had an important role to play even if some seemed insignificant. David was wiser, and able to see higher. No wonder Samuel said that God had found *a man after His own heart*.

There is encouragement for the weary here. All our fellow Christians are important, from the speaker in front of the group to the person in the last row. David set the standard that we are all in the battle together. We need to understand that, weary or not, we are all here to bring honor and glory to God.



The body of Christ is all one, and even the little toes are important to God.

David's integrity shines through in many of his actions and decisions based on his faith in God. Only when we act according to godly principles can we be confident in eventual victory.

C.H. Spurgeon was a British Baptist pastor who died in 1892. In his last sermon, he spoke on what it means to have Christ as our captain and compared Christ to David in that he stood up for the weak. Spurgeon wanted to give comfort to those who were made to feel that they were the inferior members of the body of Christ.

(Source: C.H. Spurgeon) "You little-faiths, you despondencies, you much-afraids, you feeble-minds, you that sigh more than you sing, you that would but cannot, you that have a great heart for holiness, but feel beaten back in your struggles, the Lord shall give you His love, His grace, His favor, as surely as he gives it to those who can do great things in His name."

This is comfort, the truth of the mercy of God. David showed us that loyalty in action in his life after experiencing it with Jonathan.

Remember, our overall theme for this story about Jonathan and David was:

CHOOSING THE RIGHT FRIENDS CAN SAVE OUR LIFE, IN MORE THAN ONE WAY. WITH GODLY FRIENDS, WE ARE NOT IN THIS ALONE.

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Ephesians 6:16 tells us about **THE SHIELD OF FAITH**. Bible Commentary from Jamieson, Fausset and Brown says this particular type of shield was the large, oblong, door-like shield of the Romans, four feet long by two and a half feet broad.

This shield offers a massive portable protection. It is an offensive weapon for pushing back an enemy, but it can also be lined up with other soldiers to create a wall of defense. We are on the battlefield with our fellow soldiers and fight together. There is safety within the fellowship of Christianity. Each soldier huddled together may have a different perspective. That gives us a better picture of the enemy we may be facing. It also calls upon us to listen to our fellow soldiers. We are protected together when in a place of vulnerability - a place where there are no walls. This shield is a portable wall, just like our faith should be. Do we carry our portable wall wherever we go?



The idea of working together is so strong. Battle is ugly, but David shows us how to treat fellow soldiers with respect even if their role is not as great. This shield of faith picture is magnificent. If we stand together, shoulder to shoulder, behind our individual shields we are so much stronger and more protected. We need to develop as co-laborers so that we can be a "Jonathan" to someone else.

David would become king after Saul and his son Jonathan are killed in battle. All of the training in faith, courage, integrity, loyalty, wisdom and compassion would be needed to rule Israel in a godly way.

Would he be perfect? No. He would always find his way back to God. There are many missteps in David's life, but he always finds his way back to God.

David went on to be faithful to Jonathan's family after Jonathan was killed in battle and David became king. (See 2 Samuel 9:6 for the story of Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth.)

1 Chronicles 14:17: (NASB) *Then the fame of David went out into all the lands; and the Lord brought the fear of him on all the nations.*

David will go on to become a mighty man - a man of valor, a man of courage, a man of faith, wisdom and integrity that people look to as God-honoring and God-fearing.

However, David was a man. In our next episode we will look at some of his missteps and his gross errors in judgment. He committed some horrible sins, yet he was still a man of God. How is this possible? We need to understand the core of David's being. He was committed to honoring God first. Jonathan and David stood together to fight the good fight of faith for God and the people of Israel. This is how we should look at *our* Christian lives - fighting the good fight for God and for our Christian brotherhood.

*So, how can I be a giant slayer like David?
For Jonathan and Rick (and Julie) and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on June 15, 2020

Ep. 1130: How Can I Fight For God's Purposes
Like King David? Warriors of God Series

A strong person is the one who knows how to be quiet, shed a tear for a moment, trusting in God, having faith and then picks up their sword to fight again. — Unknown

Christian Questions Weekly
Newsletter

CQ Rewind Show Notes and
Study Questions

Text
CQREWIND
to **22828** to get started.

