



John Pearse—Recovery Pastor
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Week 2 Jonathan – Faithfulness Amid “Unfairness”

¹ Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for. **Hebrews 11:1-2 NIV**

^{35b} There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. ³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted, and mistreated—³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. ³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. **Hebrews 11:35b-40 NIV**

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. **Hebrews 12:1 NIV**

God desires for us to be faithful to our part of His sovereign plan.

Comparison only leads to pride or defeatism.

God is Just; not necessarily “Fair”.

²¹ “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart.” The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.”

Job 1:21 NIV

The parable of the vineyard workers. (Matthew 20:1–16)

Who was Jonathan? (1 Samuel 13-31)

First born son of King Saul. First crown prince of Israel. Effective, popular leader. Close friend and protector of David.

God desires for us to respond in faith to His Promises.

¹³ “You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. ¹⁴ But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.” **1 Samuel 13:13-14 NIV**

⁶ When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. ⁷ Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. **1 Samuel 13:6-7 NIV**

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.” **1 Samuel 14:6 NIV**

God desires for us to yield to His will not our own.

³ And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴ Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt. **1 Samuel 18:3-4 NIV**

¹ Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan had taken a great liking to David ² and warned him, “My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you.” **1 Samuel 19:1-2a NIV**

⁴² Jonathan said to David, “Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the Lord, saying, ‘The Lord is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.’” **1 Samuel 20:42a NIV**

¹⁷ “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this.” ¹⁸ The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. **1 Samuel 23:17-18a NIV**

Jonathan and David were of one heart and mind in that the supreme goal of their life was to glorify God.

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. **Philippians 2:3-4 NIV**

² *The Philistines were in hot pursuit of Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua.* **1 Samuel 31:2 NIV**

Next Steps:

- **Start your faith journey by accepting Jesus as savior.**
- **Take the first small step of faith on God's promise.**
- **Yield to God's will in all areas of your life.**