

1/27/19

**TAKE HOME**

**Speaker: Al**

*(Further study on today's message for individuals, families, or small groups)*

**FOLLOWING JESUS: Climb the Cliff!**

**GETTING STARTED**

- Are you more of a “Thrill Seeker” or a “Comfort Seeker”? Why?
- Have you ever run an obstacle course or climbed a cliff? What was that like? How did you feel when you accomplished it...or did you?
- Is there anything in this week's message that caught your attention, challenged you or confused you?

**DIGGING DEEPER**

1. Read 1 Samuel 14:1-23. When Jonathan “hatched” his plan with his armor-bearer, the response was (vs. 7) “Do what you have in mind... Go ahead; I will be with you heart and soul.” How has having an “all in” companion helped you?
2. What obstacles did Jonathan and his armor-bearer have to overcome to be victorious? What gave them courage to “Climb the Cliff”?
3. When have you faced a real challenge that took determination and/or courage? What was it that gave you the strength and determination to face that challenge? Did you have doubts? If so, how did you “move ahead”?
4. What current “cliffs” do you think God wants you to climb for Him? How is your current response comparing with Jonathan's? With his armor-bearer's?
5. You could say that Jonathan's behavior had a level of “expectancy” (vs. 6) of what God would do. How would you evaluate your current “expectancy level”? Why does this matter as part of “following Jesus”?
6. Do you believe God would ever ask you to do something He has not equipped or prepared you for? Does that mean it will always turn out like we want? Explain.

**TAKE AWAY**

1. What is a challenge you are facing right now where God is asking you to “climb the cliff”? Is there anything holding you back? Who are some “armor-bearers” who will climb the cliff with you and take a step this week towards God's will?
2. How can people be praying for you this week?

**Additional Resources ([www.RightNowMedia.com](http://www.RightNowMedia.com))**

- “Follow” (8 Sessions) – Andy Stanley
- “All In” (3 Sessions) – James Merritt
- “Let's All Be Brave” (6 Sessions) – Annie F. Downs

*(Check out [RightNowMedia.com](http://RightNowMedia.com) for more resources. See bulletin for info on how to sign up)*



**January 27, 2019**

Each week at Gateway, we have the opportunity to give to a second cause for special projects.

**Fourth Sundays – Building Fund**

The special cause today is for maintenance, upgrades and repairs to Gateway's buildings & grounds. Your additional gift (specified with your online gift or on the envelope or the memo line of your check) helps us facilitate good ministries for our Gateway family and serve as excellent hosts for our community.

**Every Sunday**

Food items for our Food Pantry

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**Communion Today**

The communion table today has been prepared for all who love Jesus and trust him alone for the forgiveness of their sin. Everyone who is truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believes in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desires to live in obedience to him, is invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord.

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Video sermons available online. Go to [gatewaymerced.org/messages](http://gatewaymerced.org/messages)

WELCOME TO GATEWAY

**Series: "Following Jesus"**

**Message: "Climb the Cliff!"**

**Main Scripture: 1 Samuel 13:16-14:16 (p. 274)**

Notes:

1 Samuel 13:16-14:16

Hearing God call us to go "all in" with Him:

1. Die to self/Pick up the Cliff your cross daily... ... <u>Follow Jesus</u> <u>ahead</u>	2. Burn the ships Break the bottle... ... <u>No turning back</u>	3. Climb Trust in Him... ... <u>Move</u>
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Jonathan: *Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few.*

Jonathan's young armor-bearer's statement:  
*Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul.*

When did we start believing that Jesus died to keep us safe? He died to make us dangerous! The will of God is not an insurance plan. It's a daring plan.

*Cf. Psalm 46*

*Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf.*

*Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few.*

*So on that day the LORD saved Israel.... (1 Samuel 14:23a)*

*"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the LORD Almighty. (Zechariah 4:6b)*

*...I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. (Jesus, in Matthew 16:18b)*

What "cliff" is God asking me to climb?

Do I truly believe He is able to save....whether by the powerful or by me?

Do I have any "armor bearers" with me?

When will I move ahead with Him?

Especially helpful for this message: "All In" by Mark Batterson, "Ordinary HERO" by Neil Cole