

• *God's Passion for His Own Glory Is the Measure of His Commitment to Our Joy in the Lord Jesus Christ. For God the Father Is Most Glorified in Us When We're Most Joyous & Delighted in Jesus Christ His Own Son, Our Savior.*

Dear Bellefield Friends,

There was this seminary graduate who when he finished seminary could never take a pastorate. He just stayed put, waiting on the sovereignty of God, wanting to protect God's sovereignty. He just wanted to know with absolute certainty that this one was the right one. Finally his friend said to him, *Do you think Hitler could stop God's sovereignty? Or Genghis Kahn? Then how could you stop God's sovereignty by saying yes to a pastorate? Just do something!*" I think what this friend was saying is, "God is glorified by our boldness, even if we don't always succeed, even if we don't have certainty." That's still the case for 2010. Let's be bold for His praise. —*Geoff*

**Our Mission This Week:**  
1. Pray to be bold;  
2. Do something bold & tell a fellow believer about it.



Pray to be bold 4 God.

#### 4. Be Bold: Take the Initiative to Be Involved

**1 Samuel 14:13-14**—"Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, and his armor-bearer after him. And they fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer killed them after him. And that first strike, which Jonathan and his armor-bearer made, killed about twenty men within as it were half a furrow's length in an acre of land." Let us notice one thing clearly and finally. For it is a key to seizing divine moments

in life for God's greater glory in 2010: *Jonathan was a guy who did something.* He took initiative. He had every reason not to do anything, King Saul wasn't doing anything & Dad was in charge. They were all waiting and resting in the pomegranate cave. They only had 2 swords. The Philistines were well armed—and big. But funny thing: Jonathan said, "Let's go pick a fight for the glory of God; let's be bold for His praise." We can be, too, for Christ in 2010.

# Sermon Helps

## Yet One More New Years Resolution for 2010: *Be Bold for God's Glory*

**1 Samuel 14:1-14**

Please weigh verse 6 of this passage. Here's a paraphrased version of it—what Jonathan says to his armor bearer: "*Let's go over to the Philistine camp and pick a fight with those uncircumcised fellows. Maybe God will be with us.*" Maybe God will be with us? It seems Jonathan's passion for God's glory, God's Name, God's work, is so great that he's going to go ahead proactively and engage life regardless of the uncertainties that are out there waiting for us all. What kind of boldness is this for us to resolve in 2010?



Still Making Resolutions...

### *Carpe Diem, Coram Deo*

These two Latin phrases translate to: *Seize the day*, and *Before the face of God*. Horace came up with the former under the wider sentence of, *Seize the day trusting as little as possible in the future*. But for Jonathan in *1 Samuel 14*, it's just the opposite: *Seize the day trusting you are always before the face of the Sovereign God Who owns your future*. So from which does the greater boldness come?

Sermon  
Points  
@a Glance

- Be Bold By
1. **Knowing that You Don't Know the Outcome, but God Does;**
  2. **Taking Risks by Knowing Who God Is;**
  3. **Going forward into Service Unless God Tells You No;**
  4. **Taking the Initiative to Get Involved & Be Involved for God's glory.**

## 1. Be Bold: Know that You Don't Know the Outcome

**1 Samuel 14:1**—“One day Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who carried his armor, ‘Come, let us go over to the Philistine garrison on the other side.’” He seized the moment before the face of God. King Saul could have done this. But he opted to stay in the pomegranate cave. Not so his son Jonathan. Jonathan

*lived in the dimension of uncertainty in a way that did not immobilize him.*

There are only 2 swords in all of Israel: Saul had 1, Jonathan, the other.

Saul’s thinking, “We have only 2 swords!” But Jonathan’s thinking, “I’ve got half the weapons in Israel!” He’s what you call bold.



2 swords in all of Israel.

### 1a. It Wasn't Safe for Jesus; Wasn't Safe for Paul

We may have thought once, *If I only live fully for God, life will be a safe journey; I'll be all protected 'n'at.* But look at Paul’s diary: “I’ve been constantly on the move, in danger from bandits, in danger from rivers, from my own countrymen, from Gentiles, in

danger in the country, at sea and from false brothers.”

Jesus Himself did not choose a safe place, but was bolder than any. He let Himself be brutally crucified. He went into the dangerous places....

“Christ’s bold passion for God’s glory took Him to the Cross.”

## 2. Be Bold: Take Risks Knowing Who God Is

**1 Samuel 14:6**—“Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, ‘Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the Lord will work for us, for nothing can hinder

the Lord from saving by many or by few....Behold we will cross over to the men, and we will show ourselves to them.” Is God highlighting bad military strategy? Or is God teaching us something about boldness?



Played it safe in a cave.

## 2a. “Heart & Soul”—Let’s Be with Each Other

**1 Samuel 14:7**— “And his armor-bearer said to him, ‘Do all that is in your heart. Do as you wish. Behold, I am with you heart and soul.’” Interesting! Jonathan’s armor-bearer is with him *heart and soul*—despite the questionable military strategies. So they both go! People who seize the day before the face of

God are people who have hearts and souls aligned with God & aligned with each other. Since they know the Lord, His Word, His ways, His guaranteed presence—and His people, they don’t have to have a guaranteed outcome. They’re just bold. They go ahead.



Rises with togetherness in heart & soul

## 3. Be Bold: Go Unless God Tells You No

**1 Samuel 14:11**—“So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, ‘Look, Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden themselves.’” There’s this interesting frame-

work in people that God uses to change things. They have this proactive advance mentality. They go unless they get a no. Would I be shaking in my boots if I’d heard this taunt? Not Jon.

“Be bold: assume that in everything, God is up to something!”

### 3a. Our “Go”—Is to Follow Jesus Christ

**1 Samuel 14:12b**— “And Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, ‘Come up after me, for the Lord has given them into the hand of Israel.’ Then Jonathan climbed up on his



Jesus on the move: follow!

hands and feet and his armor-bearer after him.” Creatively & boldly thinking: what would happen for God’s glory in & thru BPC if all of us just *went*, if we would just go in service until we