

May 7, 2013

# EXTREME FAITH

## Extreme Friendship

Who's got your back?  
Taking a look at a friendship  
that stood under fire!  
Jonathan & David

WHO'S GOT YOUR  
BACK?



DO YOU  
KNOW?

## EXTREME FRIENDSHIP

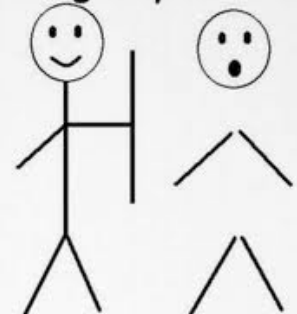
### What do your friendships look like?

They stood in the field embracing. Tears streaming down their cheeks. Chests heaving sobs. Red-eyed stares. In the distance, a young boy was running through the field with the arrows he gathered. If you listen, you can hear their parting words. "I'll always love you, my friend. You've meant everything to me. Thanks for watching my back." "I did what I did because I love you. Don't forget what We've lived through here." "I won't. Not in a million years." David and Jonathan were saying good-bye. And it was hurting them. Why did they have to say good-bye? Why were they in a field? What was the little boy doing with the arrows? Welcome to extreme friendship. David and Jonathan probably became friends when David worked in the court of King Saul, Jonathan's father. I bet they played in the courtyards together. Maybe they kicked balls back and forth. They probably had a lot of time to talk too. About girls. About how each, someday, would lead an army into a victorious battle. Each day they spent together was another day to conquer an invisible enemy or practice a skill.

They learned to play together. They learned to be friends. The Bible is clear about their relationship. If you read 1 Samuel 18-20, you'll read a lot about how Jonathan loved David, or vice versa. They were best friends. They were knit together. They loved each other. How much? A lot. A ton. You know, you never really know who your friends are until something comes along to test that friendship. We toss around the terms best friends and soul mates so often that they have become more like brand names than meaningful descriptions. For David and Jonathan, those terms were called to the test, a test that ultimately led them to stand in the field clinging to each other in a final embrace. A little background. King Saul had a problem. He was crazy. Don't get me wrong. He was a good king in many ways, but he had an affliction that the Bible describes as a "distressing spirit" (1 Sam. 16:14-15). It got Worse with time. One thing that seemed to ease Saul's affliction was to have David play the harp for him. That became David's job.

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I've got your back!



Who's got your back and who's back are you watching? How you answer these questions tells you a lot about your friendships. Friendship are the foundations that we build our life on. How you build your foundation is very important. We have foundations with our relationship with God, we have foundations with our family members. But friendship foundations depend a great deal on you and what type of friend you are. It is hard to have good friendship foundations if you are not working on the friendship yourself. So ask yourself this question. What type of friend are you?

# What is your relationship with God look like?

Calling Glory  
Walk with you

When i begin to fall asleep  
You help me stay awake  
To see the things I long to see  
And everything I've prayed

Let me walk with you  
Through night and through the day  
And let me walk with you  
Through sunshine and the rain  
I want to walk with you  
And listen to the things you want to say  
You want to say

Lord I am listening

And now i see that you are King  
A King who reigns on high  
A King who is in love with me  
A King who wants me to be his bride

And let me walk with you  
Through night and through the day  
I want to walk with you  
Through sunshine and the rain  
I want to walk with you  
And listen to the things you want to say  
You want to say

Lord I am listening  
Lord I am listening

Let me walk with you  
So the blind can see  
I want to walk with you  
And set the captives free  
I want to walk with you  
And listen how to raise them from the dead  
From the dead

Lord I am listening



This song is featured on the Teach me to Love album by Calling Glory

# FRIENDSHIP

## EXTREME APPLICATION

Friendship. It'll help you through struggles, but it's not always easy. It'll cause you to take stands you might not be accustomed to taking. It can cost you relationships, including family. Walk into any skyscraper and check out the building. It's got a steel frame. It's girded together with cement, stone, and glass. Strong winds won't topple it. Hard rain won't wear it out. That's friendship, right? Girded together. Weatherproof. Waterproof.

## Jonathan & David Extreme Friendship cont...

That put David in Saul's court regularly. During all this, David grew into an incredible young man. His reputation grew. People thought of David as a warrior's warrior. And the people's high regard of David made Saul angry. If you'll read through those passages that describe their relationship, you'll see Saul getting more and more angry and antagonistic toward David. How angry? How antagonistic? Here's a scorecard for you. As Saul's discontent with David grew, Saul threw his spear at Jonathan (his son, remember?) once, at David twice, and even cursed Jonathan (check out I Sam. 20:30) That's pretty antagonistic. It's even worse when you remember that we're talking about a king. What do you think when you hear the word king? I think composure. Control. I get a picture of someone in a kingly looking robe with little bald men dabbing his brow every second or so. But I get a different picture when I think of King Saul. I think of him as an unkempt, crazy man with wild, uncombed hair. In my mind's eye, he's got a nervous twitch. He's always looking over his shoulder to see if someone stronger or better looking is following him. He's got a spear with him every where he goes. Looking. Waiting. Watching. Searching for anyone who gives him a strange look. He's paranoia personified. Saul had it in for David. He wanted David dead. That's where Jonathan's friendship with David was put to the test. That's where Jonathan had to choose. He loved his father and wanted to honor him. But his father wanted to unjustly kill his best friend. Father or friend. Tough choice. And a dangerous one. But one necessary for two men knit together at the heart. Saul sent out a message through his servants and through Jonathan. He wanted David killed. It didn't matter where, when, or by whom. Pulling David from the planet was the only target Saul could see. Saul pursued him in a variety of ways but missed him every time. Jonathan had a hand in those misses. Imagine this. Saul is sitting down for dinner. Jonathan's there. David's gone. He's in hiding because he knows that Saul wants him dead. Once Saul finds out that

## Think About it

Stop and think about your friendships right now. Can you say this to your friends? Can you look at them and say, "Hey dudes you need it? I'll do it case closed." Do you have friends who would say this to you?

David isn't there. He goes ballistic. He throws his spear at Jonathan in anger. Imagine you're Jonathan for a moment. You love your dad. You love David. But your dad is losing it, and he's trying to kill your best friend. What would you do? Would you hide David from your father? Would you obey your dad and help kill David? Would you just move away and let the two of them work it out?

That's where Jonathan's friendship becomes extreme. He loves Saul, but he protects David. Jonathan and David work out an extremely elaborate way to signal David that Saul is making more plans to kill him or to ease up. Jonathan proposes to shoot three arrows in the field they've agreed on. If Jonathan tells his servant to come closer to find the arrows. David will know it's safe. If Jonathan tells his servant to go farther out to get the arrows, David will know he better vamoose. So Jonathan, with the knowledge that a Saul is angrier than ever, goes to the field, shoots the arrows, and tells the servant to go out farther. David comes out to say good-bye. That's why they're standing in the field. I'm not sure what you'd do. I know that would be tough for me. It would be tough for me knowing that my dad wanted to kill my best friend. It would be hard to continue working with my dad after he'd driven my best friend into hiding. It would be difficult realizing that my crazy father's emotions could change with the wind and he could turn on me. Jonathan put a lot at risk by helping David. He risked his relationship with his father. He risked his life. Those are extreme steps to take for a friend. Aren't they?

## MODERN EXTREMES

### Gavin Living Extreme

Gavin is an intense guy. His dad is a minister. In other words, he's a preachers kid. It might be easy to hear those words and make some assumptions about what you get when you meet Gavin. You might think he's a typical geeky good kid. Or maybe a typical rebellious son of a preacher aiming to try a different path from that of his father. Neither picture is accurate. In a Christian school where people might let complacency rule their lives or their familiarity with Christianity allow them to take their beliefs for granted, Gavin steps out daily with focus, boldness, and spiritual maturity that rival the best of today's adult Christian leaders. And that drive surfaces in the area of friendship.

Continued on page 6...

Read 1Samuel chapters 18-20

WHO HAS YOUR BACK?

# DIE IN

How would you describe David and Jonathan's friendship?

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What do you think caused them to be so close?

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What do you think God thought about their friendship?

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When have you had a relationship like David and Jonathan's?

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In what ways these types friendships important to you?

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How can we build strong friendships?

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What are the benefits and drawbacks to strong friendships?

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Can you think of one friend you would like to have this type of relationship with?

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How can you establish a closer friendship with that person?

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## STEP ONE:

Serve

## STEP TWO:

Love 'em  
like yourself

## STEP THREE:

Emotionally  
connected

## STEP FOUR

Make it last  
Strong Foundation

## TAKE SOME TIME AND JOURNAL.

Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your thoughts...

**What is the Tension in serving your friends  
Who me serve you?**

**Okay so we might have some of those close friends who we would be happy to serve and then we might have some friends who we really wouldn't serve.**

**How many people in this room like to serve and how many like to be served?**

**Well serving one another has a lot to do with friendship, and how deep a friendship grows.**

**Serving is one way that we have the back of our friends and they have our back.**



# MODERN EXTREMES

## Gavin Living Extreme cont...

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How does Gavin take who he is and translate it into extreme friendship? Listen to his philosophy about loving people who don't fit in or who are going through rough times: **"Satan doesn't want us to believe that it's cool to love people that are the least of these."** Gavin doesn't want to run past people who are hurting and broken and miss them or their needs. He wants to love people. That means reaching into their hurts, being their friend, and allowing Jesus to use him to heal them. Gavin reaches out to others in friendship, and he's not concerned about what people think. He's not scared that the person he's loving will make him look "uncool." He just goes for it.

Unafraid of Satan. Unconcerned about his reputation. When Gavin was in the ninth grade, other guys he looked up to took him in. They sought him out and made a specific effort to help him feel welcome in the youth group. When Gavin felt a little insecure about his place in the group, they took him places and were loyal to him without obligation.

## EXTREME APPLICATION

I've read about Jonathan and David a ton of times. I've seen four things that these two guys did to build, strengthen, and continue their friendship.

The First thing that stands out in Jonathan and David's friendship

### Jonathan & David Served Each Other Through Their Friendship

#### 1. "Whatever you yourself desire, I will do it for you" (1 Sam. 20:4)

Serving is what friendship is all about. Can we pick that sentence apart for a moment? "Whatever" Want another word here? Try anything. No holds barred. There are no limits to that word. "You yourself desire." We listen to our friends talk. We come to know what they need. "I will do it." "This has got to be the hardest part of the statement . . . our Willingness to act for our friends. Stop and think about your friendships right now. Can you say this to your friends? Can you look at them and say, "Hey, dudes. You need it? I'll do it. Case closed"? Or what about the opposite? Could you say, "Hey, whatever I need, I know they'll do it"?

So how do you serve your friends?

How do your friends serve you?

It is something to think about, how we support and watch the back of our friends says a lot about our character and our ability to be a good friend.

Take some time this week and write down when you served your friend and thought of them first.



Living life with

Extreme faith  
and

Extreme vision

**EXTREME FAITH MAGAZINE**

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