

“Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God. “Don’t be afraid,” Jonathan reassured him. “My father will never find you! You are going to be the king of Israel, and I will be next to you, as my father, Saul, is well aware.” 1 Samuel 23:16-17 NLT

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Never underestimate the power of a good friend. You might not be aware of this, but Jonathon was quite a bit older than David, maybe 20 years older. It’s not like this is a couple of young guys taking on the crusty old king - this was the son of Israel’s first king and “natural” heir to the throne. Jonathan recognized many things his father did not see. God had pulled back from Saul and ordained David to be the next king. Jonathan wasn’t just okay with this, he wanted it to happen. However, even though Jonathan was mentoring David and protecting him by giving him key information to escape and avoid Saul’s threats to kill (which is treason), he could only do so much. No, in this case, as with many, God was in control and would see this through to accomplish his plans, not Saul’s. King Saul must have been tortured in all this. He loved Jonathan and originally loved David, but he was vexed, torn and quite schizophrenic about the whole process of losing God’s favor and struggling to hold on to power by chasing the soon-to-be king around the country. It just made Saul look more like a fool with every vindictive pursuit. But David was encouraged every time Jonathan reminded him - God was with him and everything was going to turn out just fine. He believed when David was losing hope. This is so important when friends do this. Keeping faith and hope while someone else is losing their grip.

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Dad,

You have given us these amazing friends, these hope-filled, faithful friends that encourage us to keep believing, keep going. Why do we struggle so much with making and keeping friends around us like Jonathan? What makes some of us resist such a gift? And some folks really struggle with just having one friend, let alone a few to share the load of care. We need you to continue to break through our humanness, our insecurities, our introverted excuses to build and keep better friendships. Help us oh God!

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rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root