INTRODUCTION
Are you a person of faith?
You may say, "Sure, I'm a Christian. I exercised faith when I believed in God (John 3:16). I know that it takes faith to be saved (Eph 2:8,9)."

But some Christians forget that faith doesn't stop at conversion.
- Rm 1:17 states "The Righteous shall live by faith."
- Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."
Hebrews 11:2 states, "For by faith the men of old gained approval."

But what is faith?
- Hebrews 11:1 states, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."
- It is believing in the unseen.
- It is trusting an unseen God.
The letters FAITH could be their own definition - Forsaking All I Trust Him. Here is a definition for faith that I like, Wholehearted trust in God and His Word.

If faith in God means to have a wholehearted trust in Him, what does it mean to take a step of faith? It means to take risks for God. It means stepping out of one's comfort zone to do whatever it is that God wants done. It means making oneself available and vulnerable for the cause of Christ. Since God wants us to live by faith, He wants us to take steps
of faith on a regular basis. (REPEAT) He wants us to make ourselves available and vulnerable for Him on a moment by moment basis.

This message looks at 1 Samuel 14:1-15. Let me set the stage for the

SHOW MAP
In 1 Samuel 13:2 Saul becomes king and chooses a standing army of 3,000. 2,000 were with him in Michmash and 1,000 with Jonathan at Gibeah.
In 1 Samuel 13:3 Jonathan smites the Philistine outpost at Geba causing Israel to become odious to the Philistines.
In 1 Samuel 13:4 Saul summons Israel to Gilgal.
In 1 Samuel 13:5 The Philistines come with thousands of chariots, 6,000 horsemen and infantry like the sand on the seashore.
In 1 Samuel 13:6-7 in fear the Jews begin to scatter.
In 1 Samuel 13:8-14 Saul waits for Samuel to come to Gilgal, and when Samuel doesn’t come, Saul offers burnt and peace offerings which should only be offered by a priest. Samuel finally shows up and condemns Saul.
In 1 Samuel 13:15 Saul, Jonathan and the small army that had not deserted went to Gibeah and were staying there while the Philistines assembled at Michmash. The Philistines had thousands, while Israel had hundreds. What was even worse was that Israel, except for Saul and Jonathan had no real weapons except farm implements. Saul and the army were essentially in hiding for fear of being wiped out by the Philistines. The situation has gone from bad to worse

1 Samuel 14:1-15 (NASB) states,
1 Now the day came that Jonathan, the son of Saul, said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come and let us cross over to the
Philistines' garrison that is on the other side." But he did not tell his father. 2 Saul was staying in the outskirts of Gibeah under the pomegranate tree which is in Migron. And the people who were with him were about six hundred men, 3 and Ahijah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the priest of the LORD at Shiloh, was wearing an ephod. And the people did not know that Jonathan had gone. 4 Between the passes by which Jonathan sought to cross over to the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp crag on the one side and a sharp crag on the other side, and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. 5 The one crag rose on the north opposite Michmash, and the other on the south opposite Geba. 6 Then Jonathan said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; perhaps the LORD will work for us, for the LORD is not restrained to save by many or by few." 7 His armor bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart; turn yourself, and here I am with you according to your desire." 8 Then Jonathan said, "Behold, we will cross over to the men and reveal ourselves to them. 9 "If they say to us, 'Wait until we come to you'; then we will stand in our place and not go up to them. 10 "But if they say, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up, for the LORD has given them into our hands; and this shall be the sign to us." 11 When both of them revealed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines, the Philistines said, "Behold, Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden themselves." 12 So the men of the garrison hailed Jonathan and his armor bearer and said, "Come up to us and we will tell you something." And Jonathan said to his armor bearer, "Come up after me, for the LORD has given them into the hands of Israel." 13 Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, with his armor bearer behind him; and they fell before Jonathan, and his armor bearer put some to death after him. 14 That first slaughter which
Jonathan and his armor bearer made was about twenty men within about half a furrow in an acre of land. And there was a trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. Even the garrison and the raiders trembled, and the earth quaked so that it became a great trembling.

What we can learn from the passage about stepping out in faith: Jonathan saw the situation and decided to do something about it. He decided to take a step of faith. But we must understand more about taking steps of faith:

1. **v1 stepping out in faith is a conscious decision**
   1 Sam 14:1 - Now the day came that Jonathan, the son of Saul, said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come and let us cross over to the Philistines' garrison that is on the other side." But he did not tell his father.
   - The text states in verse one, "Now the day came..."
   - At some point Jonathan said, "Enough is enough. I am going to do something about the situation."

2. **v1 stepping out in faith is easier when you have someone to go with you**
   1 Sam 14:1 - Now the day came that Jonathan, the son of Saul, said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come and let us cross over to the Philistines' garrison that is on the other side." But he did not tell his father.
   - Jonathan had his armor bearer
   - That is why mentoring relationships are so important.
3. **v1 stepping out in faith means you must do something**

1 Sam 14:1 - Now the day came that Jonathan, the son of Saul, said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come and let us cross over to the Philistines' garrison that is on the other side." But he did not tell his father.
- Let us cross over to the Philistines
- the balance between faith and works James 2:17,18
  v17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.  
  v18 But someone may well say, "You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."
- Don't tell me you are living by faith if you are not stepping out and taking risks for God.
- Often in Christianity, when all is said and done, much more is said than done.

4. **v1-2 Your step of faith may upset others**

1 Sam 14:1,2 – Now the day came that Jonathan, the son of Saul, said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come and let us cross over to the Philistines' garrison that is on the other side." But he did not tell his father.
- But Jonathan did not tell his father
  Saul was frightened along with all the rest of the Jews. He was hiding in the outskirts of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree. If the Philistine raiding parties had known where he was, they would have come after him. If he had known that Jonathan was going to try to tackle the Philistines, Saul might have told him that he was unwise and only going to get himself killed. He might have told Jonathan that as the kings son, he was too valuable to the Jews and that someone else should go.
Are some of us hiding from the enemy today. At work, in our neighborhoods, in our schools, and in our families. We are there not making any waves or rocking the boat lest the enemy come after us.

It is easy to want to hide. Since we moved into our neighborhood I have been keeping a bit of a low profile. I have been trying to build relationships before letting folks know what I do. I have one neighbor who moved in shortly after we did. I mowed his yard a couple of times while he was in the process of moving and didn't have access yet to his mower. I've also loaned him a few tools. Finally one day he asked me pointblank, "What do you do anyway?" I knew that he had me. I told him that I was a minister. But I had not offered this information because I was scared. I wanted to win a hearing first.

5. The step of faith doesn't need to be a public thing

1 Sam 14:1 – ¹ Now the day came that Jonathan, the son of Saul, said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come and let us cross over to the Philistines' garrison that is on the other side." But he did not tell his father.

- Jonathan did not broadcast to the world what God was leading him to do, he just did it.
If God leads you to step out in faith, just do it!

6. v2,3 Steps of faith don't have to be initiated by the leadership

1 Sam 14:2,3 - ² Saul was staying in the outskirts of Gibeah under the pomegranate tree which is in Migron. And the people who were with him were about six hundred men, ³ and Ahijah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the priest of the LORD at Shiloh, was wearing an ephod. And the people did not know that Jonathan had gone.
- Saul and his men were frozen in place.
- The priest, Ahijah wasn't doing anything either.
- God had touched Jonathan's heart and Jonathan needed to respond.
- Even at church, you don't have to wait for a formal program or suggestion from the leadership to step out in faith. If God moves you, do it!

7. **v4,5 A step of faith makes you vulnerable**

1 Sam 14:4,5 - Between the passes by which Jonathan sought to cross over to the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp crag on the one side and a sharp crag on the other side, and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. The one crag rose on the north opposite Michmash, and the other on the south opposite Geba.
- Jonathan was between two passes...he was not in the jungle where you can hide
- Vietnam vs Dessert Storm. One was fought in thick foliage, one in open desert.
- Stepping out in faith puts a person at risk
- It is fascinating to look at the names of the two crags
- Bozez = surpassing white, glistening
- Seneh = thorny

Bozez perhaps symbolized the purity of Jonathan's step of faith. It was glistening, surpassing white because it was for a pure and holy God. Seneh symbolized the Philistines and the thorny challenge which lay ahead. Jonathan was going to confront the enemy head-on!

8. **v6 Stepping out in faith is understanding that God won't necessarily save you**

1 Sam 14:6 - Then Jonathan said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these
perhaps the Lord will work for us...perhaps He won't
But you will never know until you try. Better to try and fail than to never try at all.
- Daniel 3:12-18 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to a step of faith in not bowing down and worshiping the golden idol that Nebuchadnezzar had made. v17, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. v18 But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Know the difference between presuming upon God's grace and stepping out in faith.
Snake handlers put God to the test - Lord, You have to save us.
Those who step out in faith do not put God to the test.

9. v6 Stepping out in faith means having the assurance that God is a God of miracles
1 Sam 14:6 - Then Jonathan said to the young man who was carrying his armor, "Come and let us cross over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; perhaps the LORD will work for us, for the LORD is not restrained to save by many or by few."

The Lord is not constrained to save by many or by few.
- One plus God is a majority
2 Chronicles 16:9, "For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His...."
10. v7 Receiving support during a step of faith spurs a person on  
1 Sam 14:7 -  
7 His armor bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart; 
turn yourself, and here I am with you according to your desire."  
- the response of his armor bearer should be our response to God

11. v8-10 Stepping out in faith means having a plan  
1 Sam 14:8-10 -  
8 Then Jonathan said, "Behold, we will cross over to 
the men and reveal ourselves to them.  
9 "If they say to us, 'Wait until 
we come to you'; then we will stand in our place and not go up to them.  
10 "But if they say, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up, for the LORD has 
given them into our hands; and this shall be the sign to us."  
- Example - hosting a neighborhood outreach  
- maybe invite at least one person from church

12. v11-13 A person who steps out in faith must continue and not 
shrink back knowing that things may get harder  
1 Samuel 14:11-13 -  
11 When both of them revealed themselves to the 
garrison of the Philistines, the Philistines said, "Behold, Hebrews are 
coming out of the holes where they have hidden themselves."  
12 So the 
men of the garrison hailed Jonathan and his armor bearer and said, 
"Come up to us and we will tell you something." And Jonathan said to 
his armor bearer, "Come up after me, for the LORD has given them into 
the hands of Israel."  
13 Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, 
with his armor bearer behind him; and they fell before Jonathan, and 
his armor bearer put some to death after him.  
- they had to climb the hill  
- story of John Patten, missionary to the New Heberdies islands

13. vv14-15 Stepping out in faith can bring great victory  
1 Samuel 14:14-15 -  
14 That first slaughter which Jonathan and his armor
bearer made was about twenty men within about half a furrow in an acre of land. And there was a trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. Even the garrison and the raiders trembled, and the earth quaked so that it became a great trembling.

God caused a commotion in the Philistine camp and they turned their swords on one another, and eventually there was a great victory for the Jews.

APPLICATION
God wants us to step out in faith
There is a great need today for Christians to make themselves vulnerable for the cause of Christ
How are you going to take a step of faith
- perhaps you need to come to Christ
- perhaps you need to get baptized
- perhaps you need to volunteer for ministry
- perhaps you need to reach out in your neighborhood

Paul in the New Testament wants people to pray for him so that he would step out in faith and be bold. Perhaps this needs to be our prayer.

Ephesians 6:19-20 (NASB)

19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.