



“Who’s My Armor Bearer?”

“Let’s go across to the outpost of those pagans,’ Jonathan said to his armor bearer. ‘Perhaps the Lord will help us, for nothing can hinder the Lord. He can win a battle whether he has many warriors or only a few!’

‘Do what you think is best,’ the armor bearer replied. ‘I’m with you completely, whatever you decide.’”

1 Samuel 14:6-7 (NLT)

I love to watch nature documentaries—especially ones that capture life (and death) on the African savanna. How about you? There’s nothing like seeing a pride of lions crouched motionless, eyes locked on a herd of wildebeests. They’re looking for one in particular—weak, isolated, vulnerable.

Are you vulnerable?

The pride has a mission: eat or they die—their cubs die. Alone, each lion has little chance of success. Collaborating, they'll succeed.

Are you collaborating?

The fall of man came with horrible consequences—chief among them, our tendency to isolate: from God, from each other... even within ourselves. Also, we insist on doing things *for ourselves, by ourselves*. Both are in direct opposition to what God ordained for us. Behind enemy lines, we're prone to wander off like that wildebeest—vulnerable. And we resist collaboration. "Why bother?" we think. Then wonder why we're struggling.

But oh, those lions—pretty smart! Their mission is clear; they craft a plan of attack. They know what it takes to succeed.

Reflect: **Have I isolated myself?**

I don't know about you, but I hate large crowds! Could you imagine the life of a wildebeest clinging to the masses for safety? Seems to me that man's more suited to operate like a lion pride: close-knit, high communication, trusting, collaborative, unified in purpose.

"The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part." The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

Paul affirms... once saved, we become members of Christ's body—unified, yet made up of distinct parts. God places each of us in a different place, with a unique role, intending for us to intimately connect with the members most immediately around us—our Team.

"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour." The Apostle Peter (1 Peter 5:8)

A finger detached from your hand will die. Likewise, you detached from your Team will fall to the prowling enemy. Adjoined, you become an essential unit in the battle to advance the Mission of the entire body.

Consider: My Armor Bearer is my most vital Team member.

David was a powerful King—his armies restored Israel to its glory. Though his armies claimed overall victory, the Bible highlights David's mighty men. At the top of the list were the Three:

“These are the names of David’s mightiest warriors. The first was Jashobeam the Hacmonite, who was leader of the Three—the three mightiest warriors among David’s men. He once used his spear to kill 800 enemy warriors in a single battle.” (2 Samuel 23:8)

Certainly, such warriors would each lead a close-knit Team of fighters—the most vital being their Armor Bearer. An Armor Bearer’s responsibilities made for the tightest of all collaborations:

- **Life-Guard** – He literally shielded the warrior’s back.
- **Keeper of Strength** – He supplied weapons, food, water... anything needed to keep him in the fight.
- **Companion in Faith and Courage** – Jonathan’s Armor Bearer’s response says it all—he was 100% for his warrior.

Could a true warrior carry out his Mission without an Armor Bearer?
Could you?

*Imagine: **My Armor Bearer is my battle companion.***

Having received a clear Mission directly from the Lord, you’ll feel called to run into battle...

*“He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.”
The Apostle Paul (Titus 2:14)*

... zealous to do good works!

"Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good; haste makes mistakes."

(Proverbs 19:2)

But, heed the wisdom of David's Three or risk finding yourself alone, unguarded—vulnerable.

"The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit." (Luke 10:1)

As Jonathan said, the Lord can win with many warriors or only a few, but Jesus emphasized the importance of not engaging in battle alone. Isn't it time you asked yourself...

"Who's My Armor Bearer?"

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- **Reflect:** What Kingdom work have I been attempting to do alone?
- **Commit:** "This week I will identify my Armor Bearer and gain his/her commitment to protect me and join my fight to advance my Mission."

- **Later:** Review... “How can I deepen my collaboration with my Armor Bearer?”
- Don’t know my Mission? [Start here!](#)

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

My Armor Bearer Bolsters Me in Battle.

“Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.”

King Solomon | Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NLT)



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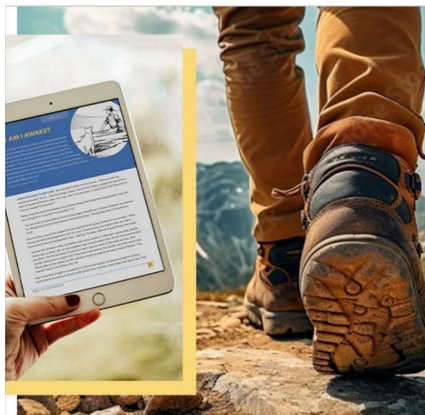
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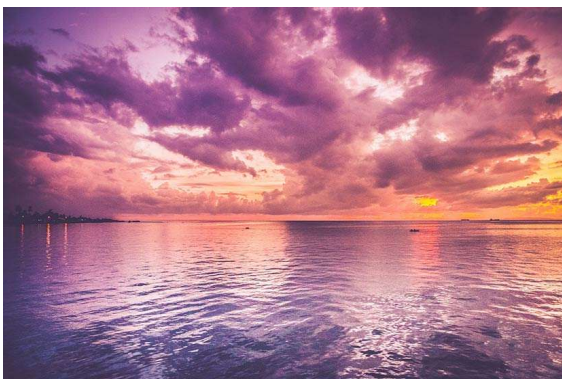
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Mission (Im)Possible?

Remember the old show “Mission Impossible”? Jim Phelps, IMF (Impossible Missions Force – so funny!) agent listens to a tape describing his mission. The recorded voice states “Your

mission Jim is [X]should you
decide to accept it.” Then... [Keep
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