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## *The Lord is Not Restrained by Many or by Few*

### **Read 1 Samuel 14:1-6 (Especially v. 6c)**

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1. Do you think that verse 6c is an inspired statement? (Consider: Was Jonathan, son of King Saul, a prophet of God?)

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2. Do you think this statement is true? (Consider Judges 7:4, 7) Is it possible that it could be an un-inspired statement, yet still true?

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3. Can you state the principle Jonathan was referring to in your own words?

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4. Does this principle hold true in the New Testament? Why or why not?

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5. In the context, this statement had to do with physical battle (war) and had special application to the army of Israel. Do you think it has wider application than that?

## Four Contemporary Applications of this Principle

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1. Someone is given a 20% chance of surviving surgery by a doctor. How disheartening should this be to a Christian? Is God restrained by *medical odds*? Does this mean that God will always spare a Christian's life who is in good standing with Him?

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2. An obedient Christian woman wants to find a Christian mate. It seems to her that so few people her age are serious about serving God. Is God restrained by *social odds*?

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3. It's very easy to believe that the truth of God is overwhelmed today. So many serve only self and not Christ. Few have serious concern for their spiritual condition. Is God restrained with regard to *numbers who hold the truth*? (See Matthew 7:13-14)

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4. A non-Christian neighbor of yours has recently been asking you about your church. While you are happy for the interest, you know the kind of life this person has lived and is living. You wonder how he could ever make a good Christian. You're almost afraid to speak to him or invite him to church with you. Is God restrained with regard to *sins of the past*? (Consider 1 Timothy 1:12-16)