

## Visionary Faith: It's Risk & Challenge

2 Thessalonians 1:11

**So, we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.**

(2 Thess 1:11 NLT)

Primary point: Evaluate your life based on faith, not on fruit.

### A) Defining Visionary Faith

- Visionary faith is attempting great things for God and trusting Him with the earthly results.

### B) The Challenge of Visionary Faith: "Failure"

*"Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary"* (Gal 6:9).

"Failure" for Jesus' disciples (Luke 10:1, 10).

Disappointment for God (Gen 6:5-6).

### C) Faith is More Important than Fruit

- What we try for God is more important than what we accomplish for God.  
The Apostle Paul's "failure" (2 Tim 1:15).

### Applications

1) Have a clear conscience about broken relationships (Acts 24:16; Eph 4:2-3).

2) Don't stop loving (1 Cor 13:8). Love begins where liking ends.

Discussion ?'s

- 1) What was most meaningful to you about the Sunday message?
- 2) We learned from Luke 10 (vs. 1, 10) that Jesus sent His disciples to places their ministry would "fail." What are several lessons we can learn from this?
- 3) We were reminded of several "successful" Bible characters who did not accomplish much on Earth. What is the lesson from this? What is the difference between God's definition of success and the world's? Is there a time in your life when you have struggled with the world's definition of success or realized God's definition?
- 4) In Paul's last letter he says *"Everyone in the province of Asia has deserted me"* (2 Tim 1:15). Why is this so shocking? What can we learn from this, especially about church ministry?
- 5) Why is it important to have a clear conscience about failures and broken relationships? How do we obtain this? Do you have a personal example of this?
- 6) What do we mean when we say: "I serve Christ, not people"? How does this apply to relationships that are "stuck"?