

THE POWER OF VISION – Week #1
Faith Over Fear
January 2, 2022



Acts 26:9-18 (MSG) *I admit that I didn't always hold to this position. For a time I thought it was my duty to oppose this Jesus of Nazareth with all my might. Backed with the full authority of the high priests, I threw these believers—I had no idea they were God's people!—into the Jerusalem jail right and left, and whenever it came to a vote, I voted for their execution. I stormed through their meeting places, bullying them into cursing Jesus, a one-man terror obsessed with obliterating these people. And then I started on the towns outside Jerusalem.*

12-14 *"One day on my way to Damascus, armed as always with papers from the high priests authorizing my action, right in the middle of the day a blaze of light, light outshining the sun, poured out of the sky on me and my companions. Oh, King, it was so bright! We fell*

flat on our faces. Then I heard a voice in Hebrew: 'Saul, Saul, why are you out to get me? Why do you insist on going against the grain?'

15-16 *"I said, 'Who are you, Master?'*

"The voice answered, 'I am Jesus, the One you're hunting down like an animal. But now, up on your feet—I have a job for you. I've handpicked you to be a servant and witness to what's happened today, and to what I am going to show you.

17-18 *"I'm sending you off to open the eyes of the outsiders so they can see the difference between dark and light, and choose light, see the difference between Satan and God, and choose God. I'm sending you off to present my offer of sins forgiven, and a place in the family, inviting them into the company of those who begin real living by believing in me.*

Acts 26:19-20 (MSG) *What could I do, King Agrippa? **I couldn't just walk away from a vision like that!** I became an obedient believer on the spot. I started preaching this life-change—this radical turn to God and everything it meant in everyday life—right there in Damascus, went on to Jerusalem and the surrounding countryside, and from there to the whole world.*



Proverbs 29:18 (MSG) *If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.*

1 Timothy 1:19 (MSG) *There are some, you know, who by relaxing their grip and thinking anything goes have made a thorough mess of their faith.*

Numbers 13 and 14: The Story of the Israelites approach to the Promised Land

Numbers 13:17 (MSG) *Go up through the Negev and then into the hill country. Look the land over, see what it is like.*

Numbers 13:27-33 (MSG) *We went to the land to which you sent us and, oh! It does flow with milk and honey! Just look at this fruit! The only thing is that the people who live there are fierce, their cities are huge and well-fortified. Worse yet, we saw descendants of the giant Anak. Amalekites are spread out in the Negev; Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites hold the hill country; and the Canaanites are established on the Mediterranean Sea and along the Jordan.”*

³⁰ **Caleb interrupted, called for silence before Moses and said, “Let’s go up and take the land—now. We can do it.”**

³¹⁻³³ *But the others said, “We can’t attack those people; they’re way stronger than we are.” They spread scary rumors among the People of Israel. They said, “We scouted out the land from one end to the other—it’s a land that swallows people whole. Everybody we saw was huge. Why, we even saw the Nephilim giants (the Anak giants come from the Nephilim). Alongside them we felt like grasshoppers. And they looked down on us as if we were grasshoppers.”*

Job 3:25 (MSG) *The worst of my fears has come true, what I’ve dreaded most has happened.*

Numbers 14:6-9 (MSG) *Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, members of the scouting party, ripped their clothes and addressed the assembled People of Israel: “The land we walked through and scouted out is a very good land—very good indeed. If GOD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land that flows, as they say, with milk and honey. And he’ll give it to us. Just don’t rebel against GOD! And don’t be afraid of those people. Why, we’ll have them for lunch! They have no protection and GOD is on our side. Don’t be afraid of them!”*

Hebrews 3:19 (AMP) *So we see that they were not able to enter [into His rest—the promised land] because of unbelief and an unwillingness to trust in God.*



TAKE IT FURTHER/CHALLENGE:

- How would you define vision? Where does it come from and why is it important to have it?
- Why is it important to deal honestly with your fears - in order to see clearly the vision God has for your future? Share how fears have affected you.
- Are you looking toward the future with fear or faith? What are you expecting God to do in your life this new year?

Re-watch any of our past messages at

<https://www.facebook.com/JustChurchHaverhill/>

UPCOMING EVENTS at JC:

MEN'S BREAKFAST – 1/8/22 – 8AM JC/Ray of Light Space above A1 Deli

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST – 1/15/22 – 9AM JC/ Ray of Light Space above A1 Deli (childcare provided)

CELEBRATE RECOVERY WOMEN'S STEP STUDY – starting 1/8/22 – 11AM JC/Ray of Light Space above A1



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