



1. When Pastor Rick talked about the importance of “having a vision”, what do you think he was talking about? Why do you think it is important for a Christian to “have vision”? Have you ever had a vision for your future in some area of your life? What was it? What did you do to develop your vision? Read John 4:35 where Jesus talks about developing a particular vision, what did it involve? What would it mean for you to have a vision in this area? Read 2 Corinthians 4:18. What type of vision is this verse speaking about? Have you ever considered developing a vision of how God could use you?

*Answer—The type of vision that Pastor Rick described is not to have a supernatural “vision” from God where he talks to you. Instead, it is the ability to determine what needs to be done and what should be done in your own life as a Christian. Then you can develop goals to accomplish your vision, trusting God to work in your life to accomplish everything He wants to do in your life. In John 4:35 Jesus tells the disciples to see how great the need is to reach people with the gospel, unsaved people are the harvest. We need to develop a vision where we see ourselves being used by God to share the gospel with others. The passage in 2 Corinthians speaks about having the vision to see that the most important things in life for us to accomplish are the things that have an affect on eternity. Every Christian needs to dream about how God could use them to accomplish for the kingdom of God if we allowed God to rule our lives.*

2. What are the three negative results for us when we have no vision of how God can use us to accomplish His will? Have you ever experienced one of these?

*Answer—The three negative results were: A. Indecision—we cannot make up our minds what we should do or how to go about accomplishing it. B. Division—Instead of seeing what we should be doing and working together to accomplish God’s purposes, each individual believer does his own thing and thinks that what his is doing is more important than anything else. C. Collision—Having no defined direction in our lives means we are likely to crash into dead-ends in our lives. We just bounce from one activity to another and many times it results in accomplishing nothing for God.*

3. Read Numbers 13:26-31. Of the 12 spies that were sent into the land to see if they could go into the land to possess it, 10 reported that the obstacles would be too big to overcome and

only Joshua and Caleb said that they could take the land. They all saw the same things, so why the difference in opinion? If you cannot see in your mind's eye how something can be accomplished, what would you think? What role does faith play in your ability to see what God wants to accomplish and what he could do in your life? In what area of your spiritual walk with God do you need to increase your faith?

*Answer— Of the spies, 10 looked at the circumstances and could not envision a way that they could defeat the people who lived in the land. They did not consider what could be done if God was with them and helped them. Joshua and Caleb knew that if God wanted them to go into the land, it was not only possible, but nothing could stand in their way. If you do not think something can be done then you will believe that there is nothing that you can do to make it come about. A person with faith in God believes everything is possible if God is with you.*

4. Read Numbers 13:17-25. The ten spies who came back gave a negative report about their ability to go in and take possession of the land. When we do not have vision of how God can work through us, we will have the same five negative responses that the spies had, what were they? Which one do you feel manifests itself the most in your life?

*Answer—The five negative characteristics from Pastor Rick's sermon were: A. I overemphasize the negative situations in my life, they become an excuse for not doing more, B. I focus my attention on what others are not doing which makes it okay that I am not doing it either, C. I underestimate the strength and abilities God has given me so I do not try to do more, D. I infect others with my negativity because misery loves company, and E. I make myself miserable and depressed because I know I should do more. This causes guilt that I am not what I should be.*

5. Pastor Rick said that there are two words that when we say them to ourselves, they kill any vision we might have for what God can do through us, what are they? Read Philippians 4:13. Why are these two words a lie for a Christian to say when talking about what God wants to do through us? Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. How do the ideas in this passage go against everything we think about what we are capable of accomplishing? Why is it a true statement that for a Christian your weakest areas can become your greatest strengths?

*Answer—The two words are "I can't". Philippians 4:13 says that through Christ, "we can". Paul says in 2 Corinthians that it his weaknesses that became his strengths because he relied on Christ to enable him. When Christ takes over the areas where we are weak, then his strength becomes our strength and the "I can't" becomes "but he can".*

6. Pastor Rick said that people who say "I can't" or "I can" are both right because they are both projecting their future based on their fear or their faith. What do you think he meant? Do you think that hanging around people with an "I can" mentality as Christians can have an influence on you? Who do you hang around most, "I can" Christians or "I can't" Christians? Do you think this should determine who you spend time with the most?

*Answer—If you think you can't, then you won't, so that becomes your future. For those who say I can, then they will and that becomes their future. Those who say I can't do not have faith in what God can do in and through them and those who say I can do have that kind of faith. Who you hang around is huge because both the "I can't" and the "I can" mentalities are very contagious. If you want to become an "I can" person, then spend most of your time with those kind of people and minimize the time you spend with the "I can't" people.*

7. Do an exercise in dreaming with your group by asking them: If there is one thing you could attempt to do for God and you were guaranteed that you could not fail, what would it be? Do not let people give small answers, push them to dream big. Then ask them: What is keeping you from doing it? The answer is: Our lack of faith in God.