



## WORDS FROM *Pastor Randy*

Did it ever occur to you that succeeding at the wrong thing might be even worse than mere failure itself? A number of years ago, a Deacon handed me a little note on which he had typed the following anonymous quote: “Our greatest fear should not be of failure, but of succeeding at something that doesn’t really matter.”

I have no idea who first made that statement, but it makes good sense. I am coming to understand that there is a vast difference between being busy doing “church work” and really accomplishing the “work” of the church. We Baptists are extremely busy people! We have programs for most every thing imaginable. If you care to get involved, there is always “something” going on down at the church. Yet, I’m not so sure that God Himself is even participating in a lot of our programs.

Sadly, so many of our prayers are all about trying to get God to somehow bless what we’re doing. We’ve made our plans without consulting Him and now it is as if we need Him to add His blessings on our programs. In reality, prayer should to be about finding out what God wants done and then begging Him to empower us to get it done.

The American Church is today facing a form of “ecclesiastical success” that we have learned from watching the market world system around us. Preachers have become CEOs trying to build a growing organization. Financial decisions are based on the same reasoning that rules any corporate business. Many Churches are so democratic in their government and committee-led in their operation, that’s that they only need God in case of a real emergency!

Where is God in what we’re trying to do at church? Where is the real commitment to the kind of prayer that moves God to do what only He can do? It concerns me to think about how much of what is done at church that can easily be explained by manipulation, education, personality, and human ability.

I don’t think God ever promised to bless our attempts to help God out. Our slick, skilled, sophisticated techniques will never be enough.

Though God will let us “do church” without Him, it will never be what He intended for it to be without His power.

Big crowds never impressed Jesus. He changed the world with twelve men. Big budgets don’t get His attention. He knew all along that one of those twelve men had been stealing from His treasury.

The church exists to prove that there is something real and that this ultimate reality is God Himself. He doesn’t need our assistance. It’s time that the modern Church throw away its “success oriented gospel” and return to the “gospel” of the Bible.

Rather than just helping people to be a “success” in life and feel better about them selves, the gospel announces that we are lost without Jesus and will go to Hell forever if we don’t receive Him. That’s the only way to survive the ultimate reality of eternity . . . living forever in Heaven.

Just Thinking . . .

Pastor Randy

# Trivia That Isn't Trivial

1. Who was born first – Jacob or Esau?
2. In order for a man to become a bond slave, what did he have to do?
3. What Bible character said, "Here am I: send me"?

## ANSWERS

1. Esau (Genesis 25:25-26)
2. Have his ear pierced (Exodus 21:5-6)
3. Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8)