

8 May 2022

Our Vision: GRACE – Relevant ... to people of all ages, backgrounds and faith journeys. – Romans 1:8-17

1. Thanksgiving

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

Question 1: How do we build thanksgiving into our lives?

2. Weakness

⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you ¹⁰ always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— ¹² that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. ¹³ I want you to know, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.

- Intense longing
- Noble ambition
- Surprising obstruction

Question 2: Have you ever had a dream that was noble but not fulfilled?

Question 3: What surprising things can upset good plans in life?

Question 4: How does God speak through them?

3. Power

¹⁴ I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵ So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Question 5: What obligation are we under as believers?

Question 6: How can v16-17 transform our attitude in relation to the relevance of the gospel to everyone?

A Prayer

Loving Lord, help me live a life of thanksgiving. Please speak into my weakness and disappointments with words of strength and hope. Grant me a new vision of how your power can work through me to build your kingdom now and evermore, Amen.