

Victory Connect Lesson
"I am calling you into the Vanguard"
Guest Speaker: Pastor Dominic Russo
July 23, 2023

Introduction: A Vanguard is a group of people who lead the development of a new idea. They are Pioneers. Vanguard comes from a military term meaning the foremost part of an advancing army or naval force. God is calling us to the Vanguard, to be Pioneers in the Faith.

Jesus said the Roman Centurion with great faith was a Vanguard of many outsiders to come.

[Mat 8:10-11 MSG] 10 Taken aback, Jesus said, "I've yet to come across this kind of simple trust in Israel, the very people who are supposed to know all about God and how he works. 11 **This man is the vanguard of many outsiders who will soon be coming from all directions** - streaming in from the east, pouring in from the west, sitting down at God's kingdom banquet alongside Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Three Aspects of Pioneering:

1. The Patience of Pioneering.

[Jas 1:3-4 KJV] 3 Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 **But let patience have [her] perfect work**, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Patience is choosing to respond biblically when things don't go your way. Patience is a fruit of the spirit. Without patience you will not be "perfect and entire".

2. The Price of Pioneering. [Num 13 & 14]

Joshua and Caleb were Faith Pioneers, yet the congregation wanted to stone them after they brought the good report of land. [Num 14:10 KJV] 10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

3. The Privilege of Pioneering. From that group, only Joshua and Caleb entered into the promised land. [Num 14:37-38 KJV] 37 Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD. 38 But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, [which were] of the men that went to search the land, lived [still].

Discussion Questions:

1. Is there a time your patience was rewarded?
2. Share a time you suffered for being a pioneer?
3. Share a time you were rewarded after believing God?

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