

Grace Notes

Failing Forward

06.09.09



***“You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure.”
1 Thessalonians 2:1 (niv)***

Ever did something you know God told you to do and.....it flopped? Or worse, it ended up seeming like an outright disaster? Rest easy—you’re in good company.

The fact that Paul wrote, *“our visit to you was not a failure,”* strongly suggests that there was wide-spread belief to the contrary among the Thessalonian believers.

And for good reason.

You can read about the visit to which Paul’s referring in Acts 17. Not only was Paul run out of Thessalonica, but when Paul fled to Berea the Thessalonian Jews chased him and tried to run him out of Berea as well. By human standards, the visit was anything but successful.

By *human* standards.

Someone once told me, “God never called us to be ‘successful,’ only ‘faithful.” And “faithful” is exactly what Paul had been to the cause of Christ, making Paul—in God’s eyes—100% successful. After all, Paul wrote this about the Thessalonian believers: *“You became a model to all the believers.....The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere.” (1:7-8)*

Sounds successful to me.

So, the next time you faithfully follow through with something God’s clearly told you to do—and things don’t initially turn out so well—don’t for a moment believe the enemy’s lie that you weren’t successful. Because, although Satan can, at times, leave us “beaten & bruised,” he can never rob us of the success made available to us through the cross of Christ.

Soli Deo Gloria, Nick

