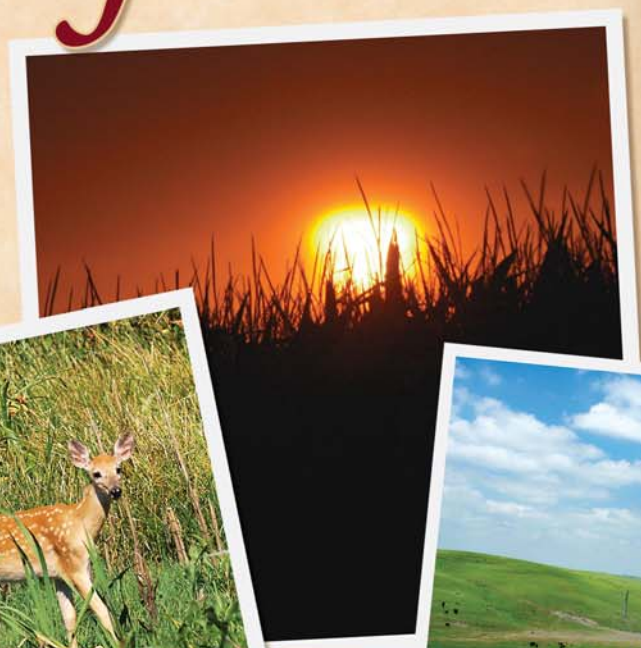


SNAPSHOTS
OF
faith!



Encouragement & Inspiration
from the Heart of God.

PASTOR MIKE NEELY

Photography by Jerry Jacobs

THE MESS OF FAITH-SIZED ENDEAVORS

Temporary failure and problems are unavoidable messes we make while striving for growth in any arena of life. God gives us a graphic lesson on life in Proverbs 14:4—“*Where no oxen are, the manger is clean, but much revenue comes by the strength of the ox.*” Faith-sized pursuits call for an increased application of power. And cranking up the power creates an inevitable byproduct—mess. In the ancient *Farmer’s Almanac*, the verse above might have read: “If you don’t want to pull the plow yourself, you’ll have to buy an ox. If you buy an ox, you’re going to have to shovel manure! You decide if you are ready to deal with the hassle of expanding your field!”

Failure is the price of risk, and risk is the currency of faith; and faith is essential to pleasing God! There are some common elements of success essential to every endeavor, including business, ministry and our spiritual lives. God-sized accomplishments require us to risk in faith, invest ourselves in labor, and to deal with the messes that we make in the process. We can be assured that as long as we are on the earth we will still be learning and growing and making mistakes and messes.

You will never succeed in your spiritual life, business or ministry if you are not willing to risk having to scoop up the messes you make along the way.

Failure is simply one of the messes of success. You will never succeed in your spiritual life, business or ministry if you are not willing to risk having to scoop up the messes you make along the way. Don’t be paralyzed by your failures, mistakes and messes! Scoop them up according to God’s grace provision and get on with it!

Mark Twain said, “Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you *didn’t* do than by the ones you did do.” Go for it!

Scoop your mistakes and failures up
by God's grace provision and
get on with what He's given you to do!

