How Far Away is God Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 9:30-10.
- B. Kierkegaard noted a great disparity between belief and practice among Christians.
- C. Romans 9 stresses the sovereignty of God and Romans 10 stresses man's responsibility—Paul sets them side by side and maintains that both are true.
- II. The greatest problem faced today is casual Christianity.
 - A. This is a superficial religion—a complacency with the inside even though it is completely wrong.
 - B. The answer is never a program—it is always a person.
 - C. The great need is to come to face the claims and lordship of Jesus Christ.
- III. The simplicity of faith.
 - A. The just shall live by faith, and not doing anything.
 - B. If anything else would be required of man to please God, the feat would be too great.
 - C. Jesus is instantly available to anyone willing to recognize His lordship.
- IV. If Christ is all we need all that is left is the necessity of preaching Him.
 - A. Israel had no ground to complain for having not heard because they had heard.
 - B. When the Spirit of God comes into the life of a believer, he is capable of doing the works of Jesus and witnessing effectively to Him.
 - C. God is waiting for people who know Him to step out in faith and say, "here am I." (Isaiah 6)

Application questions:

1. How do you see casual Christianity manifest today?	
2. What does the speaker mean by "the just shall live by faith and not doing anything"?	_

3. How will you step out this week and say to God with Isaiah "here am I?" Be specific.