

Developing The Kymera Boogie Board

God’s people are called to get the job done

*Build a temple. Win battles. Preach the Gospel. Care for the poor. Provide for orphans and widows. Show mercy to the sick.*

Prayer

Depending on God through patient prayer

Nehemiah has been praying for four months. And he is praying during this conversation.

Emphasis is on PATIENT PRAYER!

Hebrews 6:12 “...but [be] imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

Prayer enables boldness

*Nehemiah is willing to risk his life, because he has already completely entrusted his life into the hands of God.*

*Psalms 118:6 “The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”*

Prayer is more important than you think (some teaching from Charles Spurgeon)

*“Prayer moves the hand that moves the world.”*

*“Christ’s soldiers always win their battles on their knees. On their feet they may be conquered, but on their knees they are invincible.”*

Spurgeon says prayer is like drawing and firing a bow. Prayer is the arrow.

Aim: The arrow is aimed toward God. Are you praying for some reason other than for God to hear you?

*“[David] directs his prayer to God... not those who will afterward read the psalm.”*

Pull: The strength of pull is the desire behind the prayer. How bad do you want this?

*“He bends the bow by vehemence of desire.”*

Watch: Prayers should be full of expectation. How will God answer?

*“Anxious to know how it speeds, he looks up to see whether God accepts his desires.”*

*1 Kings 18:42 “And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees.” → He prayed for the rain to come. And then...*

*1 Kings 18:43, 45 “And he said to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.” And he went up and looked and said, “There is nothing.” And he said, “Go again,” seven times.” ... “And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain.”*

Planning

Choosing the right words, right moment

*Graves of my fathers → Something the king could understand*

*The queen beside me → Could this be Esther?*

Thinking it through

*Nehemiah needs passage through Samaria (the Province Beyond the River).*

*Nehemiah needs timber for the gates.*

*Nehemiah needs a house.*

*“...and I gave him a definite time.” Vs. 6, New American Standard Bible*

*God is a God of order. Organization. Planning. Structure. Leadership. Headship.*

Trust and Obey

There is no contradiction between relying on God (his sovereignty) and planning (our responsibility). “So it pleased the king to send me.” AND “The good hand of my God was on me.”

Thank God for his provision!

*Nehemiah needs a house to live in.*

*“If it wasn’t for laymen, the ministry would fold, from a material point of view. But the remarkable thing is that when the minister gets on the field, and fantastic things happen, he never mentions the layman! But behind the scenes, there’s a layman there, shelling out.” – Chuck Swindoll*

*From Richard Halverson’s book Perspective: “I dedicate this book to faithful Christian laymen, who, with silent heroism, under relentless secular pressure, fight the economic battle as stewards of the living God. I thank God in every remembrance of these faithful men and women.”*

Questions for Further Study and Application

1. What is wrong in this world that breaks your heart to fasting and prayer? Will you fast and pray for Hope’s mission?
2. What do we learn from Nehemiah’s control of his emotions?
3. Would your employer be happy for you to leave for an extended time, or would they want you to come back?
4. Is it unspiritual to make a thorough plan? Why or why not? How does God’s blessing and our planning go hand in hand?