

THE POWER

OF

VISION

Part II

Last Week We Discussed...

Vision Simplifies Life

VISION gives you a *DESTINY* which dictates your *DECISIONS*

Vision Is Defined As... *Foresight* with *Insight* based on *Hindsight*

VISION is the *IMPLEMENTATION* of God's plan *WITHOUT ALL THE DETAILS*

VISION is *SEEING* the invisible and making it visible

The *IMAGE* of the *VISION* must be *CLARIFIED* in order to be *REALIZED*

OPPOSITION is to be expected with encountering *VISION*
Doubt, Complacency, Fear, and Fatigue

NO VISION Leads To A *LOOSE LIFE* ~ *WITH NO DISCIPLINE*

Introduction

People who **COMPLETE** great work **FOR THE LORD**, are able to *see the whole trip in their minds before they leave the dock*. They have a **VISION** for their destination, they understand *what it will take to get there, they know who they'll need on the team to be successful, and they recognize obstacles long before they appear on the horizon*.

COMPLETION requires (1) **KNOWING YOUR PURPOSE**, (2) **MAKING YOUR PLANS**, and (3) **UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS**.

VISION is not the capacity to see with one's eyes **WHAT IS ALREADY**, but **THE ABILITY TO IMAGINE WHAT IT COULD BE**. Visionaries have the unusual power of discernment **TO SEE THE POSSIBILITIES** and of **MAKING THAT VISION BECOME A REALITY**.

Nehemiah was a **VISIONARY** Leader

He was **STIRRED BY FAITH** and by **HIS TRUST IN GOD** to be **GOD'S INSTRUMENT** to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. His vision **STIRRED HIM TO ACTION**... But he needed **HELP** to make **HIS VISION BECOME A REALITY**. Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem to *cast his vision and challenge the people of Jerusalem to be involved, to motivate them to accomplish something important, to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem* **SO THAT** the people **"MAY NO LONGER SUFFER DISGRACE"**

(Nehemiah 2:17)

Bringing The Vision Into Reality

It Is Not Enough To **CAST VISION**... God's Mission Is For The **Vision To Be COMPLETED**...

He is the **GOD OF COMPLETION**

Genesis 2:2-3 (NIV)

2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

John 4:34 (NKJV)

34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

John 19:30 (NKJV)

30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Nehemiah 6:15 (NLT)

15 So on October 2 the wall was finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun.

Nehemiah teaches us to **remain disciplined**, **devotional**, and **dedicated to the Vision UNTIL COMPLETION**... In **chapter 1** he got it right with God... In **chapter 2** he got it right with the King and developed his strategy for success. In **chapter 3** he implemented his plan by putting people in position to be useful and effective. In **chapter 4** he dealt with distractions, discouragement, and detractors. In **chapter 5** he counted the cost for completion...

Principle #1 ~ Prayer Is Vital To Vision

Nehemiah 1:3-4, 11 (NKJV)

3 And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire." 4 **So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.**
11 O Lord, **I PRAY**, please let Your ear be attentive to **the prayer of Your servant**, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and **let Your servant prosper this day, I PRAY**, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man."

Vision must be bathed in prayer... Prayer was Nehemiah's first resort, not his final option

- He wanted to **OBTAIN GOD'S POWER** before **IMPLEMENTING HIS PLAN**
- In order to **PREVAIL BEFORE MAN**, he first gets it **RIGHT WITH GOD**

Proverbs 21:1 (NIV)

1 The **KING'S HEART IS IN THE HAND OF THE LORD**; **HE DIRECTS IT** like a watercourse **WHEREVER HE PLEASES**.

Purposeful Prayer Involves Specific Petitions

Makes His Request Known To God ~ "LET YOUR SERVANT PROSPER THIS DAY...GRANT ME MERCY

Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, **PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS TO GOD**.

Prays A Prayer of Action ~ "God USE ME to make it better...."

Principle #1 ~ Prayer Is Vital To Vision

Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)

3 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and **SHOW YOU** great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

The enemy wants nothing more than for you to **miss what God has for you...**
He wants to keep everything **HIDDEN** so you are stumbling around in darkness. He doesn't want you to ever come **TO REVELATION OF WHO YOU ARE** and **WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO YOU IN CHRIST**.

The enemy can sometimes put road blocks or obstacles in our paths to trip us up or cause us to **give up in frustration** **RIGHT BEFORE OUR BREAKTHROUGH HAPPENS**.

God also **HIDES THINGS** from us as well. If you think about it, there is no way God will **SHOW US** every little detail of our lives **from start to finish**. **We probably wouldn't be able to handle it...**

God wants to show us where we are in our process **TODAY** and **what steps we need to take** to get us to our **NEXT PLACE** and **FULFILL OUR DESTINY AND PURPOSE**.

Genesis 12:1 (NKJV)

1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, **TO A LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU**."

Acts 9:15-16 (NLT)

15 But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is **my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings**, as well as to the people of Israel. 16 And I will **SHOW HIM** how much he must suffer for my name's sake."

Principle #2 ~ People With Vision Are Able To Prioritize Purpose vs. Profession

Nehemiah 1:11 (NIV)

11 O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man."

I WAS CUPBEARER TO THE KING.

Nehemiah had **A GREAT VOCATION** that coincides **WITH HIS VISION**
HIS OCCUPATION provides him **GREAT OPPORTUNITY** to **COMPLETE HIS VISION**

Too often we **GET COMFORTABLE WITH THE PROFESSION** and **MISS OUT ON OUR PURPOSE**

Nehemiah 2:2-4 (NIV)

2 **so the king asked me**, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart." I was very much afraid, 3 but I said to the king, "**May the king live forever!** Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" 4 The king said to me, "**WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?**"

The **Resources Needed For Completion Of The Vision** **Were Connected To The King**
NEHEMIAH'S GIFT, put him **IN POSITION** to find **FAVOR WITH THE KING**

Example

David played instrument for Saul

Peter was a fisherman who met Jesus

Principle #3 ~ People With Vision Have A Plan

Nehemiah 2:4-8 (NIV)

4 The king said to me, "**WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?**" *Then I prayed to the God of heaven,* 5 and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, *let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it.*" 6 Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "**How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?**" *It pleased the king to send me; SO I SET A TIME.* 7 I also said to him, "*If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah?*" 8 And *may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?*" And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, *the king granted my requests.*

- *He Plans What He Will Say*
- *He Plans What He Will Need*
- *He Plans The Time of His Absence*

Even With A Plan, We Still Rely On God's Power

- *Don't Rely Solely On Human Help Without God's Hand*
 - *This Helps Us Remember Who Gets The Glory*
- *Provisions Are Available With Patience and A Plan {4 months between chapter 1 and 2}*
 - *God's Favor Always Gives More Than Enough*

Nehemiah 2:9 (NIV)

9 So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king's letters.

The king had **ALSO** sent army officers **AND** cavalry with me.

Principle #4 ~ Vision Will Always Have An Impact Beyond The Individual

Nehemiah 2:17-18 (NIV)

17 Then I said to them, "**You see the trouble WE ARE IN**: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and **WE WILL NO LONGER BE IN DISGRACE**." 18 I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

What's Your Why???

Why do you want God's Favor?

Why do you want the king's Resources?

OPPOSITION IS ALWAYS THREATENED WHEN THE PLAN IMPACTS MORE THAN AN INDIVIDUAL

Acts 4:14-18 (NIV)

14 But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

15 So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together.

16 "**What are we going to do with these men?**" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. 17 **But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name.**"

18 Then they called them in again and commanded them **NOT TO SPEAK OR TEACH AT ALL IN THE NAME OF JESUS.**

Principle #5 ~ Vision Provides Opportunity That Comes With Opposition

Nehemiah 2:19-20 (NIV)

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab **heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us.** "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"
20 I answered them by saying, "**THE GOD OF HEAVEN WILL GIVE US SUCCESS.** We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it."

God Does Not Allow The Opposition To Come Until His Plan Is In Place

- *Spent Time In Prayer*
- *Met With The King*
- *Received the Resources From The King*
 - *Assembled The Team*
 - *Assessed The Damage*
- *Prepared The Plan of Action*

The ENEMY SHOWS UP

God Provides *The Necessary Time of Preparation* Before **ALLOWING** Persecution
PROCRASTINATION May Lead To Us Being **OVERCOME BY OPPOSITION**

Principle #5 ~ Vision Provides Opportunity That Comes With Opposition

Nehemiah 4:1-3, 7-8 (NIV)

1 When **Sanballat** heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, 2 and in the presence of **his associates and the army of Samaria**, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble--burned as they are?" 3 **Tobiah the Ammonite**, who was at his side, said, "What they are building--if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones!"

7 But when **SANBALLAT, TOBIAH, THE ARABS, THE AMMONITES AND THE MEN OF ASHDOD** heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry.

8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.

Size of The Opposition

As Progress continues, opposition grows....

Those who **normally don't like each other**... will come together to **hinder your progress**...

Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

31 What then shall we say to these things? **IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?**

Principle #5 ~ Vision Provides Opportunity That Comes With Opposition

Strategy Of The Opposition

Nehemiah 6:1-2 (NIV) ~ Deception By Cooperation

1 When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it--though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates-- 2 Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "**Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono.**"

Nehemiah 6:4-5 ~ INFLUENCE BY PERSISTENCE And POWER

4 **Four times they sent me the same message**, and each time I gave them the same answer. 5 Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter

Nehemiah 6:10-13 (NIV) ~ WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

10 One day I went to the house of Shemaiah, who was shut in at his home. He said, "**Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors**, because **men are coming to kill you--by night they are coming to kill you.**" 11 But I said, "Should a man like me run away? Or should one like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!" 12 **I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.** 13 **He had been hired to intimidate me so that I would commit a sin by doing this, and then they would give me a bad name to discredit me.**

SAME ENEMY DIFFERENT STRATEGY

Ephesians 6:11 (NLT)

11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm **AGAINST ALL STRATEGIES OF THE DEVIL.**

Principle #6 ~ Vision Requires Commitment To Completion

Nehemiah 6:3-5 (NIV)

3 so I sent messengers to them with this reply:

*"I AM CARRYING ON A GREAT PROJECT AND CANNOT GO DOWN.
WHY SHOULD THE WORK STOP WHILE I LEAVE IT AND GO DOWN TO YOU?"*

Realize The Magnitude Of Your Mission

Realize The Power Of Persistence

Nehemiah 6:15-16 (NIV)

15 SO THE WALL WAS COMPLETED on the twenty-fifth of Elul, IN FIFTY-TWO DAYS.

16 When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

Remember This...

Principle #1 ~ Prayer Is Vital To Vision

Principle #2 ~ People With Vision Are Able To Prioritize Purpose vs. Profession

Principle #3 ~ People With Vision Have A Plan

Principle #4 ~ Vision Will Always Have An Impact Beyond The Individual

Principle #5 ~ Vision Provides Opportunity That Comes With Opposition

Principle #6 ~ Vision Requires Commitment To Completion