



Working It Out

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May 30, 2021

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, but I said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” The king said to me, “What is it you want?” Then I prayed to the God of heaven, 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 ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

Nehemiah 2:2-5

God put Nehemiah where he was on purpose

I was cupbearer to the king.

Nehemiah 1:11b

Look for opportunities and take action

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

1 Peter 3:15

I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:3-6

Aim high, don't shoot low

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 royal park, 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?"

Nehemiah 2:7-8a

Bottom Line: What God originates, God orchestrates.

And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

Nehemiah 2:8b

Rebuilding: Working it Out

1. Have you ever been involved with building something? What obstacles did you face?
2. What would you like to see rebuilt in your life this year?
3. **Read Nehemiah 1:11-2:2** What can we learn about Nehemiah's job in this passage? What type of relationship did he have with the King? Why is this evident?
4. It's obvious that God had placed Nehemiah in the position of cupbearer for a reason. Where has God placed you that your position might be used for a special reason?
5. Why was Nehemiah afraid? How do you normally deal with fear? What can we learn about how to deal with fear from this passage?
6. **Read Nehemiah 2:3-8** How did Nehemiah respond when the king asked him what he wanted?
7. In what ways have you seen God working things out and providing what you need even before you asked.
8. What was the reason Nehemiah cited for his success with the king (End of verse 8)? Explain how you will trust God to overcome the obstacles you are facing.
9. What will you do this week to rebuild what's broken in your relationship with Christ?