

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE LIFE LESSONS FROM NEHEMIAH

Part 4 – How to Develop a Plan Nehemiah 2:4-8

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Planning is actually just acting like **God**.

1. *Jeremiah 29:11* “For I know the **plans** I have for you, says the Lord. They are **plans** for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (TLB)
2. *Proverbs 16:9* “We should make **plans** counting on God to direct us.”

I. ALLOW THE LORD TO **PREPARE** YOU. (Nehemiah 1:4-11; 2:1)

A. Before we can make a difference, we must **be different**.

Proverbs 19:2 “It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.”

B. The truth is, God is more interested in **who** we are than **what** we can do. So, before He allows us to make a difference, He works on us so that we will be different.

C. Real success is being in God's place at God's **pace**. God has the plan that will be the most effective. He also has a **timetable** in which He had decided to give it to you. God waits until we are who He wants us to be before He tells us what we should do.

D. What is God doing in His timetable called “wait”?

1. God is waiting for us to die to our **self will** in some area.

*If we are going through a waiting time for God, at least part of what is happening is that God is waiting for us to die to something in our life and surrender ourselves to another level of **Lordship**.*

2. God is waiting until the desire within you is galvanized into an **inescapable call**.
3. God is waiting for all the **external ingredients** to come into place.

II. THINK IT **THROUGH**.

- A. There is a difference between a dream and a vision: A vision is a dream that can be implemented. It's **specific**.
- B. Thinking through a goal God wants you to accomplish requires three things
 1. Gather **information**. (Nehemiah 2:7-8)

Nehemiah 2:7-8 "And I said to the king, "If it please the king, let letters be given me for the governors of the provinces beyond the River, that they may allow me to pass through until I come to Judah, [8] and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress which is by the temple, for the wall of the city, and for the house to which I will go." And the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God was on me."

2. Clarify and be able to articulate in simple terms the **central parts** of the plan. (Nehemiah 2:5, 7-9)
 - a. Be able to articulate the **central goal** you are trying to accomplish in one simple sentence. (Nehemiah 2:5)
 - b. Establish a plan of action that is a **logical** progression from point A to point B. (Nehemiah 2:7-9)

Write out a simple short sentence identifying the **goal** and then write out the **main points** of the plan under the goal.

Proverbs 13:16 "Wise people think before they act; fools don't and even brag about it!"

3. Set a **deadline**. (Nehemiah 2:6)

III. REFUSE TO BE STOPPED BY **OBSTACLES**.(Nehemiah 1:11; 2:1-2; 10)

- A. Obstacle #1 - Nehemiah was a **cupbearer** not a **wall builder**. (Nehemiah 1:11)
- B. Obstacle #2 - Nehemiah was asking the King to do what was not in the king's own **best interest**. (Nehemiah 2:2)
- C. Obstacle #3 - Nehemiah was facing the opposition by those who wanted his **mission to fail**. (Nehemiah 2:10)

Isaiah 41:10-13 (NKJV) "Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." 11 "Behold, all those who were incensed against you Shall be ashamed and disgraced; They shall be as nothing, And those who strive with you shall perish. 12 You shall seek them and not find them-- Those who contended with you. Those who war against you Shall be as nothing, As a nonexistent thing. 13 For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, Saying to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'"

IV. GIVE GOD THE **GLORY**. (Nehemiah 2:8b)

Proverbs 21:1 "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes."

Proverbs 16:1 "We can make our plans, but the final outcome is in God's hands."

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