



God wants to develop Holy Ambition in you. How?

A Dislocated Heart God has designed you to respond personally and significantly to some need in the world.

A Broken Spirit God reminds you that as much as you care about the need, God cares even more – so you must depend on Him.

A Radical Faith You depend on God by standing in the gap and out of your comfort zone. You take a very real risk of faith.

A Strategic Plan

A Strategic Plan always starts with _____.

Where there is no vision, the people perish.

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

What is Vision?

Vision is a God-given burden to see what a person, a place, or a situation could become if the grace of God and the power of God were unleashed on them.

Quick review of Nehemiah's story – Nehemiah, Chapter 1

- Nehemiah was living in the palace of the king of Babylon.
- He was the cup-bearer to the king.
- He heard about the terrible situation in Jerusalem.
- His heart was broken and he knew that he needed to do something about it.
- He developed a plan.

Question: Have you ever wondered why so many people, groups, or churches honestly intend to do so much, yet usually accomplish so little?

Answer: They stop at _____.

Good intentions followed by inaction

- Never solves a problem
- Never feeds the hungry
- Never comforts the hurting, and
- Makes for a boring life and an ineffective church!

A vision without a plan
will almost always fail
because problems will sidetrack you
and obstacles will stop you.

Nehemiah 2:5-8 (NLT)

I replied, "If it pleases the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried."

⁶ The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, "How long will you be gone? When will you return?" After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request.

⁷ I also said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah.

⁸ And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king's forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself. And the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me.

Spiritual Truth

**Where God's agenda is championed,
God's resources are channeled.**

We may make our plans, but God has the last word.

Proverbs 16:1 (TEV)

Three Tools from Nehemiah to Develop a Strategic Plan

- _____ **(Listen)**

I went on to Jerusalem, and for three days ¹² I did not tell anyone what God had inspired me to do for Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 2:11-12 (TEV)

- _____ **(Homework)**

After dark I went out ... to inspect the broken walls and burned gates. ¹⁶ The city officials did not know I had been out there or what I was doing, for I had not yet said anything to anyone about my plans. I had not yet spoken to the Jewish leaders—the priests, the nobles, the officials, or anyone else in the administration.

Nehemiah 2:13&16 (NLT)

- _____ **(Strategize)**

Launch the Plan

But now I said to them, “You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!”¹⁸ Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, “Yes, let’s rebuild the wall!” So they began the good work.

Nehemiah 2:17-18 (NLT)

Sources: *Holy Ambition* by Chip Ingram