

DO MORE THAN JUST...

DREAM BIG!

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Vision is a clear mental picture of what could be, fueled by the conviction that it should be.

God specializes in using ORDINARY people.

Nehemiah had little power, but God had given Him incredible passion.

Nehemiah 1:3 (NLT)

They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

1. Define Reality.

"The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality."

-Max DePree

"Visions are born in the soul of a man or woman who is consumed with the tension between what is and what could be."

-Andy Stanley

What is the brokenness in the world that produces brokenness inside of me?

Nehemiah 1:4-6 (NLT)

4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. 5 Then I said: "LORD, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel.

2. Pray Bold Prayers

Nehemiah 1:11 (NLT)

"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."

3. Take Action!

Dreams don't work unless you do!

"If you want to imagine unborn tomorrows, you've got to cut the rope."

-Mark Batterson

Nehemiah 2:4-5 (NLT)

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 ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it."

4. Count the Cost.

Luke 14:28 (NLT)

But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?

Proverbs 21:5 (NIV)

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

The world will be different because you took a risk, stepped out in faith and were obedient to the Holy Spirit.

5. Recruit a Team.

"Teamwork makes the dream work!"

Nehemiah 4:16-18 (NLT)

16 From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah¹⁷ who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, ¹⁸ and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

REFUSE TO GIVE UP!

Joshua 1:9 (NLT)

This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

Nehemiah 8:17 (NLT)

So everyone who had returned from captivity lived in these shelters during the festival, and they were all filled with great joy! The Israelites had not celebrated like this since the days of Joshua son of Nun.