

"The goal is that God be gloried in your life by doing something IMPOSSIBLE through someone IMPROBABLE like you."

Chip Ingram, *God to Great in God's Eyes*

HOW TO CLARIFY A GOD-HONORING VISION

Nehemiah 2:1-20

1. God-honoring vision is a BURNING DESIRE to do something for the mission of God.

Nehemiah 2:1-2 ¹ Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence. ² So the king asked me, "Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled." (NLT)

Romans 9:1-3 ¹ With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. ² My heart is filled with bitter sorrow and unending grief ³ for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ—if that would save them." (NLT)

2. God-honoring vision RELIES ON GOD.

Nehemiah 2:2b-8 ² ... Then I was terrified, ³ but I replied, "Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire." ⁴ The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?" With a prayer to the God of heaven, ⁵ I replied, "If it pleases the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Jerusalem 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 please 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 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.**”

Jeremiah 32:17 “Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and earth by your great power and outstretched arm. **Nothing is too hard for you.**” (NIV)

3. God-honoring vision has CLEAR PLANS.

Nehemiah 2:11-15 “¹¹ So I arrived in Jerusalem. Three days later, ¹² I slipped out during the night, taking only a few others with me. I had not told anyone about the plans God had put in my heart for Jerusalem. We took no pack animals with us except the donkey I was riding. ¹³ After dark I went out through the Valley Gate, past the Jackal’s Well, and over to the Dung Gate to inspect the broken walls and burned gates. ¹⁴ Then I went to the Fountain Gate and to the King’s Pool, but my donkey couldn’t get through the rubble. ¹⁵ So, though it was still dark, I went up the Kidron Valley instead, inspecting the wall before I turned back and entered again at the Valley Gate.” (NLT)

Proverbs 21:5 “Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.” (NLT)

4. God-honoring vision is big enough to INSPIRES OTHERS.

Nehemiah 2:16-18 “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. ¹⁷ 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.” (NLT)

Philippians 1:12-14 “¹² And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped spread the Good News. ¹³ For everyone here, including the whole palace guard,

knows that I am in chains because of Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear." (NLT)

BOTTOM LINE

"God is using your circumstances to POSITION and PREPARE you to accomplish His vision for your life."

Andy Stanley, ***Visioneering***

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost." (NLT)

John 14:12-14 "¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. ¹³ You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ Yes, ask me anything in my name, and I will do it!" (NLT)