

Nehemiah 2: When Impossibilities Become Challenges

God gave this burden, which became an incredible and impossible challenge for Nehemiah.

Nehemiah shows us how God gives eternal assignments to His people.

The Way God Works in Us

- See a need
- Feel a Burden
- Get a Vision
- Build or Join a Team
- Make an Impact for Eternity

When Impossibilities Become Challenges

Five Dos & Don'ts with a bonus at the end!

1) Accept the challenge as an assignment of faith. Don't expect anything great to happen without a risk.

Chapter 2:2 tells us Nehemiah was "terrified".

a) 3 Types of Fear that Weakens Faith:

- Fear of Man.
- Fear of Failure.
- Fear of Missing God.

"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind." 2Tim. 1:7 NKJV

2) Seek the support of your spiritual authority. Don't act impulsively without godly counsel.

Heb 10:17 NIV Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

a) Personal example which I have shared:

- (1) **While on staff as a pastor** in my home church **I had a burden increase in me** to plant and pastor my own church. A great opportunity in SAN ANTONIO opened up. I submitted it to my pastor expecting him to say GO FOR IT. After praying about it, he came to me and said, "I don't think you and Kerri are ready for this yet". Something ugly bowed up in me. My submission was severely tested. It was so easy... I knew many in congregation, A new building was almost complete. The salary would have been great. I loved San Antonio. And Kerri was all for it.
 - (a) Bad thoughts: he is not for me; he is reneging on his promise. He wants to hold me back. He wants **to use me for his benefit.**
 - (b) God spoke to me through *Heb. 10:17*... your pastor is *watching over you*. *Don't hurt his heart.* He's proven he can be trusted with your life.

*Neh 2:2-9 NLT 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,*

*v. 8 “... the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me. **9** “... The king, I should add, had sent along army officers and horsemen to protect me.*

3) Make a spiritual and physical connection with the challenge. Don’t move until you know in your knower this is the will of God.

*Neh 2:11-17 NLT 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. **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.*

4) Share the vision at the right time, with the right people in the right way. Don’t go it alone, build a team.

*Neh. 2:17-18 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.*

5) Pray and plan until you have a peace to begin. Don’t start without a plan.

*Luke 14:28-30 NLT “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? **29** Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. **30** They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’*

“The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty.” (Prov. 21:5).

*Neh 3:28 NLT Above the Horse Gate, the priests repaired the wall. **Each one repaired the section immediately across from his own house.***

Final Bonus Point

Be prepared for opposition.

Don’t expect it to be easy!

*Nehemiah 4:7,8 But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the work was going ahead and that the gaps in the wall of Jerusalem were being repaired, they were furious. **8** They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion.*