

Building For Generations: October 2025 and Beyond

Pressing toward the mark

"Where there is no vision, the people perish..." Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

*"If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; **but when they attend to what He reveals, they are most blessed.**" Proverbs 29:18 (MSG)*

I. Introduction

II. Fulfilling the Vision: Lessons from Nehemiah

For us to succeed concerning our BFG project, we need...

1. A _____ about God's purposes in the earth

"...It came to pass...that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire." So it was, when I heard these words that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven." Nehemiah 1:1-4 (NKJV)

2. A _____ that translates into a _____

"And it came to pass...that when wine was before the King, that I took the wine and gave it to him. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart." So I became dreadfully afraid, and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?" Nehemiah 2:1-3 (NKJV)

o A vision = what _____ be

o A burden = what _____ be

3. _____ and divine _____ to execute the vision

*"Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you **send me to Judah,** to the city of my fathers' tombs, **that I may rebuild it.**" Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time. Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, **let letters be given to me** for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah, and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, **that he must give me timber** to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." **And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.**" Nehemiah 2:4-8 (NKJV)*

4. Courageous leadership to reveal the _____ to inspire and motivate people

*"So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem...Then I said to them, **"You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach."** And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. **So they said, "Let us rise up and build."** Then they set their hands to this good work." Nehemiah 2:11-18*

5. Wise use of people's gifts and talents and the need for the _____ of God's people.

"Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built the Sheep Gate...Next to Eliashib the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built. The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate...next to them Meremoth the son of Urijah...made repairs. Next to them Meshullam...made repairs. Next to them Zadok the son of Baana made repairs." Nehemiah 3:1-4

6. Intentional _____ in face of doubt, fears, fatigue and mockery

*"...when **Sanballat** heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews...**Then Tobiah said,** "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall...So I prayed, 'Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders.' **So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work**...when our enemies heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion...**Then Judah said,** "The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall." And **our adversaries said,** "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease...Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows." Nehemiah 4:1-13 (NKJV)*

7. Choosing to embrace a heart and a vision for subsequent _____

*"And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. **Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.**" Nehemiah 4:14 (NKJV)*

8. Securing the necessary ongoing _____ for the ongoing battle

"...when our enemies heard that their plot was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work. So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor...And I said, 'Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.' Nehemiah 4:15-23 (NKJV)

9. The maintaining of clear focus and priorities without allowing spiritual _____

*"When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it... that Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono." But they were scheming to harm me; so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer... They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed." [But I prayed,] "Lord, now strengthen my hands." One day I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home. He said, "Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you--by night they are coming to kill you." But I said, "Should a man like me run away? Or should one like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go!" I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. He had been hired to intimidate me so that I would commit a sin by doing this (entering and hiding in the Temple as a non-priest), and then they would give me a bad name to discredit me." **Nehemiah 6:1-13***

10. Consistent remembering and revisiting of our " _____ " in this endeavor

*"So **the wall was completed** on the twenty-fifth of Elul, **in fifty-two days**. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because **they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.**" **Nehemiah 6:15-16***

ANSWER KEY:

1. heart that cares

2. vision----burden

- o Can**
- o Must**

3. boldness, favor, provision

4. spiritual need

5. full involvement

6. persistence

7. generations

8. prayer coverage

9. distractions

10. WHY