

Life Development

Leadership Development

Organizational Development

Kingdom Development

Holy Ambition
Chip Ingram

Spiritual Maturity

Servant Leadership

Organizational Excellence



Kingdom Company

God is searching...

For the eyes of the Lord go to and fro throughout the whole earth that He might strongly support those whose hearts are fully His.

2 Chronicles 16:9

...for a select group of people.

2 Chronicles 14&15 - Shows Asa's past "success"
- Asa was a good king, at a bad time

2 Chronicles 16:1-6 - A great door of opportunity
- Asa's greatest problem was really his greatest opportunity

2 Chronicles 16:7-12 - a sad commentary
- Asa started well, but finished poorly

This pivotal time in history...

- 1) the world has changed drastically post 9/11
 - 2) the family unit is disintegrating
 - 3) the church is sick
 - 4) the world is flat (advances in technology, etc.)
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Great crises and problems are a door of opportunity.

Greatest danger: the choice to focus inward...

Discussion Questions

If God was invested in the stock market of lives, would you recommend that he invest in your life? Why / why not?

How easy (or hard) is it for you to relate to Asa? Why?

With the current world pressures at hand, do you have a tendency to choose to focus inward? In what ways have you and your family or your others in your workplace dealt with this issue healthily?

Will you choose to answer God's call to make a significant impact at this pivotal moment in history? What does the vision of the organization ("transforming the world through Christ one business leader at a time") mean for you individually?

3 Things to Think About:

- 1) Modeling
 - starts with the individual
 - most powerful form of transformation
 - 2) Focus
 - the key to focus is concentration, the key to concentration is elimination, the key to elimination is stewardship
 - 3) Holy Ambition
 - holy = “God-honoring”
 - believing to the point that you dare to dream and believe that God can significantly change the world through you
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4 Prerequisites:

- 1) A Dislocated Heart
- 2) A Broken Spirit
- 3) A Radical Faith
- 4) A Strategic Plan

God wants to take ordinary people and help them to do extraordinary things for His glory.

When salt isn't salty, and light isn't penetrating, the result is the kind of culture we have right now.

Our Model: **Nehemiah**

The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 1:1-4

Keys: He first stopped
Drive is a good thing; to be driven is not

Prerequisite #1: A Dislocated Heart

What *is* a dislocated heart?

- A God-given concern for others that propels us out of our comfort zone
- It is a passionate concern for God's agenda that supersedes our own desires for personal peace and prosperity.

Discussion Questions

Do you currently have a “holy ambition”? How does God want to change the world through you?

Name someone that you know or know of that is simply an ordinary person that God has chosen to do extraordinary things through:

When was the last time you did as Nehemiah and sat, wept, mourned, fasted, and prayed? Why?

Going by the definition given, do you have a dislocated heart? What is one key difference that you can see and feel in yourself when you *do* have a dislocated heart vs. when you do *not*?

Prerequisite #1: A Dislocated Heart, cont

What does a dislocated heart *look* like?

Exhibit A = Jesus

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glorify of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:5-13

Exhibit B = Paul

I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my kinsmen according to the flesh:

Romans 9:1-3

Exhibit C = YOU, when there is a specific arena of need that deeply touches your heart.

How do you *develop* a dislocated heart?

- 1) Honest Evaluation
- 2) Genuine Repentance
- 3) Careful Consideration
- 4) Ask God for One

Discussion Questions:

Is there a specific area of need that deeply touches your heart? If so, what is it? Do you sense that through this area of need you have developed (or could develop) a dislocated heart?

What specific steps of faith / obedience do you sense God is leading you through to develop a dislocated heart? Who could (or has) helped you on this journey?

Prerequisite #2: A Broken Spirit

For the eyes of the Lord go to and fro throughout the whole earth that He might strongly support those whose hearts are fully His.

2 Chronicles 16:9

2 Timeless Axioms Concerning God's Character

1) God *hates* PRIDE 100% of the time

To fear the Lord is to hate evil. I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech

Proverbs 8:13

But he gives us more grace. That is why scripture says: "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

James 4:6

2) God responds to a BROKEN SPIRIT 100% of the time.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings; the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart. O God you will not despise.

Psalms 51:16,17

For this is what the high and lofty one says, he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite.

Isaiah 57:15

Discussion Questions:

Which side of the “pride spectrum” do you fall on? Loud and boastful? Or falsely humble? Do you understand why God hates both kinds, all of the time?

Why do you think God always responds so positively to those who come with a broken spirit? Have you sensed a difference in God’s response to you when you come to Him with a broken spirit vs. pride and ego?

Prerequisite #2: A Broken Spirit, cont.

A broken spirit begins with a
restored view of God.

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Then I said: "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, 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.

Nehemiah 1:4-6a

- God-centered prayer
- When you have a big God, you will always have small problems; when you have a small God, your problems will always be big.

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- **O Lord**—Yahweh; I am that I am; even existent and eternal One
 - **God of Heaven**—the Creator
 - **Great**—all powerful One
 - **Awesome**—fearful and trembling before Him
 - **Keeps His covenant of love**—loyal in love

Application Verse (Worship)

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

Isaiah 6:1-6

A broken spirit leads us to an
intimate relationship with God

I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees, and laws you gave your servant Moses.

Nehemiah 1:6b, 7

- Specific about the real issues in his life
- Accepts blame

Tools to Use in Developing Intimacy with God

praise and worship music

books

(ex: A.W. Tozer's *Knowledge of the Holy*)

journaling

Application Verse

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4:7-10

A broken spirit results in a renewed commitment to
fulfill God's agenda

"Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. O 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." I was cup-bearer to the king.

Nehemiah 1:8-11

Application Verse (Intercession)

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

Summary Principles for Impact

We must let God work deeply **IN** us before
 He will work significantly **THROUGH** us.

Until we make prayer a **PRIORITY**,
 progress and power will never be a **REALITY**.

Discussion Questions:

What parts of the way you view God right now need to be restored? How do you plan on doing this?

In what ways do you plan on developing or refining your intimacy with God? Music? Books? Journaling? What works best for you?

How are you seeking to fulfill God's agenda in your life? Are you using your workplace?

Prerequisite #3: A Radical Faith

I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it...

Ezekiel 22:30

Biblical Examples of Those Who “Stood in the Gap”

Moses, Esther, David, Paul

O 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." I was cupbearer to the king. In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before; so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart." I was very much afraid, (but) I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, 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 fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it." Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

Nehemiah 1:11—2: 1-6

- He cared
 - He humbled himself before the Lord
 - He stepped out on faith
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What is a **radical faith**?

A **radical faith** is choosing to “step out” to fulfill God’s clearly defined will at great personal risk and sacrifice.

The lie of the enemy is that God cannot use you to fulfill your own “holy ambition”.

Discussion Questions:

Who are some people that you know that have stood in the gap for *you*? For the *Lord*? Have there been times when you were asked to stand in the gap for others or for the Lord?

Recall and share a time when you were afraid, like Nehemiah was afraid, **but**, you stepped out on faith and acted anyway.

Prerequisite #3: A Radical Faith, cont.

How do you develop a radical faith?

#1

By remembering what faith is and is not...

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1

- not a mustering up of emotions
- believing to the point of acting on the basis of God's character and promises in order to obey what He reveals to you

#2

By remembering how deeply God values our faith...

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards.

Hebrews 11:6

- God does really exist
- He rewards those that diligently seek Him
- The number one thing God wants to teach you is to have faith
- Jesus only rebuked the disciples for a lack of faith
- Do not try to substitute your faith in its value to God (ex: morality, ministry, church)
- Faith is about a relationship
- God rewards and is looking for an opportunity to bless you

#3

By remembering what Jesus taught his followers about faith...

Jesus called them to a radical faith.—Luke 9:23-27

- He calls ALL of his followers to a radical faith: discipleship
- Publicly called to the radical faith

By remembering what Jesus taught his followers about faith...

Jesus clarified the object of their faith.—Luke 9:28-45

- Jesus revealed his glory
- Moses and Elijah—the two greatest old testament testimonies
- See the power, hear the voice of the Father
- Privately called to the radical faith

Discussion Questions:

In what area of the your life do you need to apply a refreshment course of what faith is and is not? Is it your family? Your workplace? Your personal walk?

What have you tried to substitute your faith relationship with? Morality? Good works? Etc.?

Name something that Jesus teach his followers about faith that you had forgotten.

#3, cont.

(Review)

By remembering what Jesus taught his followers about faith...

Jesus clarified the object of their faith.—Luke 9:28-45

- Jesus revealed His glory
- Moses and Elijah—the two greatest old testament testimonies
- See the power, hear the voice of the Father
- Privately called to the radical faith

By remembering what Jesus taught his followers about faith...

Jesus warned of the dangers of having radical faith.—Luke 9:28-45

- It is not about how much faith you have, it is about being clear in the object of your faith.
- 1st danger: comparison (misuse of position)
- 2nd danger: exclusivity (misuse of privilege)
- 3rd danger: zeal (misuse of power)

By remembering what Jesus taught his followers about faith...

Jesus outlined the cost of having radical faith.—Luke 9:28-45

- You cannot hang on to the “stuff”
- You cannot hang on to people
- You cannot hang on to the past

#4

By remembering you “can’t walk on water if you don’t get out of the boat”.

Luke 10:1-27

- You must actually move actively toward the object of your radical faith

Summary

Faith has to be taught; it is like a muscle that must be exercised so that it can grow.

Faith looks different to other people depending on their personal situation(s).

I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it. So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD."

Ezekiel 22:30

Discussion Questions:

What would “stepping out” in faith look like in your personal arena and network of influence? How might you recognize a radical faith in others?

What barriers or fears are making it difficult for you to step out in faith right now? Is it things? People? Your past?

Why is it that so many people intend to do so much, yet usually accomplish so little?

...Good Intentions

Why is that others who carefully prepare to do even a little, accomplish so much?

...A Strategic Plan

A Strategic Plan

4 Progressive Phases

- 1) Must Begin with a Vision
- 2) Where God's Agenda is Championed
- 3) Your Strategic Plan Must be "Birthed" in Private
- 4) Your Strategic Plan Must be Launched in Public

Phase #1 (Begin with a Vision)

Vision—a God-given burden to see what could be in a person, a place, or a situation if God's power and God's grace were unleashed.

What COULD Be → What HAS to Be

God almost always births vision out of a need.

<u>Chapter 1</u>	<u>Chapter 2</u>
Problem.....	Solution
Susa.....	Jerusalem
The Promise.....	The Provision
A Purpose.....	A Program
An Individual.....	A Program
An Individual.....	A Group
Perceptual.....	Practical
The Heart.....	The Head

Phase #2 (Where God's Agenda is Championed, God's Resources Are Channeled)

...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 fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it." Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me, so I set a time. I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests. So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king's letters. The king also sent army officers and cavalry with me.

Nehemiah 2:5-9

Nehemiah's
radical step of faith
his vision
and his strategic plan

God has unlimited resources.

Great movements of God are not lacking because of a lack of resources, but because of lack of vision and lack of radical faith and clear cut strategic plans to accomplish them.

Ask the King (of the universe) for the resources.

God's provision of resources is often the way He affirms and confirms.

Discussion Questions:

What is the burden that has been placed on your heart?
What is the one that you just cannot shake?

What do you want to see happen through your business
or workplace? How has God used your position there and
your past experiences to cast a vision for you?

Phase #2 (Where God's Agenda is Championed,
God's Resources Are Channeled, cont.)

...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 fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it." Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?" And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests. So I went to the governors of Trans-Euphrates and gave them the king's letters. The king also sent army officers and cavalry with me.

(Chip's Walk Thru the Bible Example)

Do not make the mistake of *not* doing what God is leading you to do because you think that there is a lack of resources to accomplish it.

Discussion Questions:

What resources—relevant to your vision—do you need to trust God to provide in order for your vision to be realized? Can you share any examples of times when you have acted in faith and God has provided?

Phase #3 (Your Strategic Plan Must be Birthed in Private)

*...When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites. I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on. By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, **examining the walls** of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.*

Nehemiah 2:10-16

3 Keys:

- 1) Silence (so that you can listen)
- 2) Secrecy (so that you can assess)
- 3) Solitude (so that you can strategize)

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- Don't jump to quickly from problem to solution.
 - Learn all you can so that your plan can be accommodating.
 - Build a team and develop a plan.
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Phase #4 (Your Strategic Plan Must be Launched in Public)

Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.

Nehemiah 2:17,18

7 Steps:

- 1) Clearly define the problem.
 - 2) Identify with the problem.
 - 3) Propose a “we” solution.
 - 4) Give a clear, strong challenge.
 - 5) Motivate at the deepest level.
 - 6) Help others see God’s hand in your vision.
 - 7) Explain specifically how everyone can participate in the project.
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For the eyes of the Lord go to and fro throughout the whole earth that He might strongly support those whose hearts are fully His.

2 Chronicles 16:9

Discussion Questions:

Do you have a strategic plan for your spiritual growth?
Marriage? Children? Reaching your workplace? Friends?
Ministry in your church?

What would God have you specifically do to move from
“good intentions” to a strategic plan in one of the above
areas? Who will help you develop this?

