



Enter the Open Door

“O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. O Lord, listen and act! For your own sake, do not delay, O my God...”
The Prophet Daniel | Daniel 9:19 (NLT)

As you passionately pursue your Mission, have you prayed like Daniel only to find that nothing happens? My prayers often sound like this: “Lord, please help me be successful in this work you’ve led me to pursue!” Or I’ll pray back God’s promises, “You said, ‘Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.’” (Proverbs 16:3)

I wait and wait. Finally, I conclude that I must be asking God to bless my plan as opposed to me joining his... and I’m trying not to! Ever feel like this? Could we be skipping something?

Reflect: Whose plan have I been asking God to bless?

Nehemiah teaches us how one is drawn into God’s work. Comfortable, he had a high-ranking job serving wine to the powerful King Artaxerxes; a dream job! God had other plans...

“When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.” Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:4)

God burdened Nehemiah’s heart with news of the ruined condition of Jerusalem, even more the demoralized Jews who were suffering the consequences of dishonoring God. Now, he’s at a great crossroads, what to do?

*Consider: **My Mission is not really mine.***

Perhaps you or I, deeply moved, would immediately construct a plan. “I’ll quit my job, go to Jerusalem and get to work...” praying for God’s help along the way. Instead, Nehemiah continues praying...

“... listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel.” Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:6)

Not for a plan of action, but simply for God to have mercy and save the Jews... for 4 months! Clearly a patient man, Nehemiah deeply understood his limitations and God’s overarching sovereignty. What happened next is nothing short of miraculous.

“So the king asked me, ‘Why are you looking so sad? You don’t look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled.’ Then I was terrified, 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.’” Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2:2-3)

Nehemiah’s grief became uncontainable and boom! God opened the door to his work and, Nehemiah, though terrified, courageously entered. Now inside, Nehemiah *“with a prayer to God of heaven”* made bold requests and the king granted every one...with extras! Nehemiah

realized God's plan was far beyond any he could have dreamt up.

Imagine: God opening the door for me to join him in something big.

Nehemiah did what we are prone to skip over. Appreciating that the only way the Jews could be saved would be if God did it, he fervently pleaded for them. What else could he do? The problem was too big for a mere man.

Have you accepted that your Mission is too big for you?

God wants to save the people he has placed on your heart so he can be glorified. He will save them, not you. After you have prayed day after day and night after night for God to have mercy on them, he will present you with an opportunity to join his work. Deeply convicted, you'll have no choice but to courageously...

Enter the Open Door.

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- Who has God has burdened my heart with?
- How will I increase my prayer for them so much that my grief grows uncontainable?
- What can I do to be ready for when God opens the door for me to join his work?

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Plead for Those on My Heart.

“And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.”

The Apostle John | 1 John 5:14-15 (NLT)



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