

# The Power for the Vision



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## INTRODUCTION

**T**he power for the vision addresses the question, “Where do you receive the power needed to effectively do your vision?” When crisis situations arise what do you do? Our natural tendency is to immediately fix that problem. The issue is not fixing the problem, but who do you look to in order to find the answer. Where do you get the power so that your vision can be accomplished with large spiritual results? This is the main focus of session two.

## #1

### THE CLOSENESS OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

*<sup>4</sup>I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup>And I said, “I pray, Lord God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments.” Nehemiah 1:4c, 5*

The big idea of this first point is to answer the question: How close is your relationship to God? When problems arise, the further you are from God, the less you will talk to him about the problem. Most people, during

a life and death crisis turn to God for help. When large problems with administration, leadership, computers, etc. happen, we fix them without even considering God might have a brilliant solution. The closer the relationship is to God, the more that person will depend on Him.

When teaching this point, the important aspect to focus on will be the audience's spiritual walk with God. Ask them when they last prayed about things happening at work, home and everyday life. What about time in the Bible and doing ministry for God? This prepares them for part 2 because without being close to God you will never believe that He truly is the answer.

## #2

### THE CONVICTION THAT GOD IS THE ANSWER

*“Please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants ... .”*  
Nehemiah 1:6a

Who has the answers to all of the problems? No matter how great a person's talents, gifts or personality, all of their problems cannot be solved by themselves. Only God can do this. Many times people

forget that they are not Him and do not have his wisdom and power unless He gives it to them. If God has the answer, the belief in that, will radically change the viewpoint of how the problem needs to be solved. The conviction is the undying mindset that God is the ultimate answer to every problem.

When you teach this you are dealing with a large stronghold of unbelief. Most people find it hard to believe that God is larger than any problem. He is the One able to fix all of the problem and not you alone. The more you talk about God's faithfulness and how He always keeps His promises, the more the audience will begin to realize how powerful and loving He is. Then they believe.

## #3

### THE CONFESSION OF UNDERLYING SIN

*“... and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You.”*  
Nehemiah 1:6b

This part is unique and many people have never thought about this particular aspect of asking for the forgiveness of God in our organizations as related to our vision. The reason this vision has started is because of someone's sin. In Nehemiah's case the sin

was in that the Jews turned their rebellious backs on God and His covenant with them. They were in an idolatrous situation and sinned against God and the consequences were enormous. The city walls were broken down and the gates were burned with fire.

Nehemiah then asked God to forgive the sins of the “nation”, not his sins. He personalized it and grouped himself in their sin. He says above in the verse, “which we have sinned against you”. In order for the full blessing of God to be unleashed there cannot be any sins that are un-confessed otherwise the visionary will be fighting God. When you teach, have the audience get by themselves first, and write down all of the sins of their nation/church/organization. Then split them off into couples and have them share what they found. Then have them pray and ask God's forgiveness for the specific sins. It is amazing at how clearly the Holy Spirit convicts when we ask Him if there is any sin in our organization.

## #4

### THE CLEANSING OF YOUR SINS AND MOTIVES

What could be worse than trying to begin a vision and have great trials because of personal sin? This is one of

the most important parts in this session. First, confess any sin before God. Every time a person has fought against God they have lost. He gives grace to the humble, not the proud. There are so many sins of commission or omission but the aspect of God's holiness seems irrelevant to life in the 21st Century. The larger the vision that God has entrusted to the visionary the deeper the cleansing will be. By deeper we mean, painful. Much grief, anguish and pain will take place before and during the startup of a large vision. Why? Because God wants to have all of the glory that He deserves. Secondly we must begin to cleanse our motives. Many times the visionary begins to take their eyes off of the vision and begin to look at the benefits too much. The title, fame, money, etc. God doesn't give people visions in order for them to be liked or gain a lot of benefits. He gives them a vision in order to accomplish His vision, which is the world.

When teaching this ask the audience to think back to the last large accomplishment that took place in their life. How many people give God much glory in the sharing of their accomplishments? The more the sins and motives are cleansed the more He can use you to impact the world for Him.

## #5

### THE CLAIMING OF GOD'S PROMISES

*<sup>8</sup>“Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; <sup>9</sup>but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling / or My name.” Nehemiah 1:8-9*

Christians who have been walking with God for over 20 years do not understand this principle and therefore do not see the incredible power of God. Nehemiah returns to the covenant that God made with Israel and claims that promise of Him being faithful if His people return to Him and keep His commandments. There are hundreds of God's promises to us in the New Testament in which God says, “If you do this, then I will do that.” The obstacles that arise and try to block the vision from starting each have a solution. God's word explains what to do when different trials, times of testing and temptations come. Find the promise, claim it and pray in faith knowing that He has never broken His word one time.

When teaching about claiming the promises of God, explain how to do that in an anxious time by claiming Philippians 4:6-7. Once they see how this is done and the ultimate results from God, they will never be the same.

## #6

### THE COMMISSION OF GOD RESTS ON YOU

*<sup>10</sup>“Now these are Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand. <sup>11</sup>O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name...” Nehemiah 1:10-11a*

Starting a vision, without God's power is negatively overwhelming, when one tries to accomplish a mountain of work alone. God gives grace when humans humble themselves before Him. Look at Nehemiah's word, “we are your servants ...listen to the prayer of your servant...” There are two important aspects of this passage. The first aspect is that of his humility toward God by placing himself in the role of a servant. The second, and more important, is Nehemiah's realization that

he was chosen by God to go and to this work of repairing the walls of Jerusalem. He did not make this up. Without God's commission on the visionary, he has no authority to proceed. It is the authority of God that opens doors for the visionary to get the vision accomplished.

When teaching this part to the audience, emphasize the point that without the band of God on their life they will not be able to accomplish that which God has called them to do. More importantly, maybe God doesn't want them to do this vision at all.

Commissioning from God solidifies that this vision is the one from Him for me to do. Help your audience to find the vision that God has commissioned especially for them and their doubts will begin to leave. God's commissioning is filled with peace. That's the point.

## #7

### THE CONFIDENCE TO PRAY FOR SPECIFIC ANSWERS

*"... and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." For I was the king's cupbearer.  
Nehemiah 1:11b*

Most Christians pray in generalities, not asking for

answers. They do not ask God for the specific answers needed to further the vision. They feel that they would be imposing on God to ask him for the specifics. The only problem is that the great men and women in the Bible asked God for specific answers, just like Nehemiah did. He asked specifically that God would make His servant prosper and for the king's mercy. What he didn't pray for was for God to somehow fix the problem. The larger the vision that God gives to a person the more crucial it is for them to ask God for specific answers. It is important to not only pray for specific answers but to pray with confidence that God will answer them. It is called praying with faith.

When teaching this last part focus on bringing into position the fact what Matthew 14-21, John 14:12-15, and James 1:1-8 states. It is the facts of what the almighty God has said to humans that we need to believe in and not our current circumstances. Share with the audience that the more they see God answer their large requests the more they will pray with confidence

### CONCLUSION

This session is the most spiritual of all four sessions. It brings God directly into the line of focus on the issue of who really has the power to do this. The task of the vision

can be done without God or with God. Look at the major non-Christian organizations. They are accomplishing their vision without Him. You can too. But at what expense and more importantly will you be impacting anyone's spiritual future. The choice is yours, always. The power comes from God and works through you to accomplish much for the kingdom or the power comes from your determination and you accomplish much for yourself. One reaps the benefits in an earthly fashion and one reaps the benefits for eternity. It's your choice. Make sure the audience knows this from the beginning and at the end of this session. They will hopefully realize that with God all things are possible and the results last forever.

Excerpted from the  
Bruce Wilkinson Course:  
*The Vision of the Leader*

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