



MAINTAIN MOMENTUM

Nehemiah 7:1-73

- The Lord has great plans and purposes for His people that He begins to reveal to us and make happen when we are willing to put Him first in our lives.
- *“For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me. I will be found by you,’ says the Lord. ‘I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes.”* (Jeremiah 29:11-14)
- We begin to see God’s plans and purposes fulfilled in our lives as we: 1) pray for direction (Nehemiah 1), 2) plan well, (Nehemiah 2), 3) collaborate with others (Nehemiah 3), 4) deal with opposition (Nehemiah 5) resolve conflict (Nehemiah 5), and 6) accomplish our mission (Nehemiah 6).
- *“After the wall was finished . . .”* (Nehemiah 7:1)
- When we complete a goal or project, we must maintain our momentum or we will lapse back into discouragement and/or defeat in our lives.
- *What are some steps we can take to “maintain our momentum” in our lives?*

Maintaining Our Momentum Requires:

RECRUITING GODLY PEOPLE TO HELP US

- Nehemiah - *“After the wall was finished and I had set up the doors in the gates, the gatekeepers, singers, and Levites were appointed. I gave the responsibility of governing Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah, the commander of the fortress, for he was a faithful man who feared God more than most.”* (Nehemiah 7:1-2)
- **To be successful in our lives we have to find and associate with others who can help us in the various sectors of our lives.**
- *“A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.”* (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

- **What qualities should we look for as we recruit others to encourage and help us?**
- **We should be looking for people who demonstrate *Integrity In Their Lives*.**
 - Nehemiah - *"I put in charge of Jerusalem my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah, . . . because he was a man of integrity."* (Nehemiah 7:2 NIV)
 - **People with integrity demonstrate honesty, transparency and reliability.**
 - **Relationships are built on trust, and we can only trust people if they have integrity.**
- **We should be looking for people who demonstrate *Godliness In Their Lives*.**
 - Nehemiah - *"He was a man of integrity and feared God more than most men do."* (Nehemiah 7:2 NIV)
 - **Nehemiah looked for people who took their relationship with God seriously.**
 - ***Who in my life is really committed to trusting and walking with the Lord?***
- **We should be looking for people who demonstrate *Faithfulness In Their Lives*.**
 - **Both Hanani and Hananiah had a track record of faithfulness.**
 - Jesus - *"The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'"* (Matthew 25:23)
 - **Promotion in God's Kingdom and in our relationships should be based on faithfulness.**
 - Paul – *"And the things you have heard me say entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."* (2 Timothy 2:2)
 - **God chooses and uses people based on their potential, on their personal lives and on their past performances (faithfulness).**
- **We have to give our the new people in our lives specific instructions.**
 - Nehemiah - *"I said to them, 'Do not leave the gates open during the hottest part of the day. And even while the gatekeepers are on duty, have them shut and bar the doors. Appoint the residents of Jerusalem to act as guards, everyone on a regular watch. Some will serve at sentry posts and some in front of their own homes.'"* (Nehemiah 7:3)
 - **We often make spiritual gains in areas of our life only to lose those gains in a short period of time because we became neglectful or forgetful.**
 - *"If you think you are standing firm, be careful not to fall!"* (1 Corinthians 10:12)
 - *"Prepare your minds for action and have self-control."* (1 Peter 1:13)
- ***Who are some people around me that exhibit integrity, godliness and faithfulness, and what steps can I to take to develop better relationships with them?***

Maintaining Our Momentum Requires:

KEEPING TRACK OF THE PEOPLE AROUND US

- Nehemiah - *"At that time the city was large and spacious, but the population was small, and none of the houses had been rebuilt. So my God gave me the idea to call together all the nobles and leaders of the city, along with the ordinary citizens, for registration."* (Nehemiah 7:4-5)

- God had Nehemiah count all of the people living at that time in Judah (Nehemiah 7:6-69) because: 1) These people were making great sacrifices to return to their homeland, and 2) These are the people who rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem.
- In a business, church, family or friendship, you have to keep track of people and their progress, and doing so indicates we believe the people are important.
- Jesus – *“I am the Good Shepherd; I know My sheep.”* (John 10:14)
- **Who are some people that I need to pray for, encourage or reconnect with?**
- **Successful people stay in touch with the Lord, and with people.**
- **What are some steps I can take to better “keep track” of people?**

Maintaining Our Momentum Requires:

RAISING THE COMMITMENT LEVEL OF OUR PEOPLE

- *“Some of the family leaders gave gifts for the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 gold coins, 50 gold basins, and 530 robes for the priests. The other leaders gave to the treasury a total of 20,000 gold coins and some 2,750 pounds of silver for the work. The rest of the people gave 20,000 gold coins, about 2,500 pounds of silver, and 67 robes for the priests.”* (Nehemiah 7:70-72)
- **Nehemiah challenged the people to raise their commitment level, and the people responded to his challenge.**
- **We can see People’s dedication by observing their *Commitment To Praying.***
 - *“Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
 - **Why do people stop praying, and why should we be faithful and fervent men and women of prayer?**
 - *“You don’t have what you want because you don’t ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong - you want only what will give you pleasure.”* (James 4:2-3)
 - *“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”* (James 5:16)
- **We can see People’s dedication by observing their *Commitment To Godly Living.***
 - Jesus - *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:16)
 - *“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God . . .”* (1 Peter 2:12)
- **We can see People’s dedication by observing their *Commitment To Serving.***
 - **If people are unwilling to serve in some capacity in the Church’s ministry they won’t make good soldiers in the Lord’s army.**
 - Jesus – *“Your attitude must be like My own, for I did not come to be served, but to serve.”* (Matthew 20:28)
 - *“Each one should use whatever gift he’s received to serve others.”* (1 Peter 4:10)
- **We can see People’s dedication by observing their *Commitment To Growing.***
 - *“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ.”* (2 Peter 3:18)

- **We especially want to encourage and equip our people in their understanding and application of God’s Word to their lives.**
- *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*
- **We can see People’s dedication by observing their *Commitment To Giving*.**
 - The Lord - *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this and see if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing you will not have room enough for it.” (Malachi 3:8-10)*
 - **The generosity of our giving reflects our trust in the Lord, commitment to Him, and love for others.**
 - Jesus – *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)*
 - **Learn more about the 52 Campaign at www.celebration church.org.**
- ***What are some steps I need to take to rise to a new level in my life, and what steps can I take to encourage others to rise to new level in their lives?***
- *“So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Temple servants, and some of the common people settled near Jerusalem. The rest of the people returned to their own towns throughout Israel.” (Nehemiah 7:73)*
- **Sometimes the Lord keeps us close with people, and sometimes we go our separate ways from people; but through it all we need to maintain our love for and devotion to the Lord and to the people that He’s placed in our lives.**
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message?***