

## MAKING A PLAN TO IMPROVE YOUR LIFE

Building a Better Future – Rick Warren  
Parts 1-2

**Principle 1 – Get dissatisfied with your current situation! Get a “Burden.”**

**Principle 2 – Start with what needs changing inside me! “My Soul.”**

**Principle 3 – Write down a simple plan to get started.**

### WHY SHOULD I MAKE PLANS?

#### 1. BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_

“I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

“God is not a God of disorder.” 1 Corinthians 14:33 (NIV)

#### 2. BECAUSE \_\_\_\_\_

“Mark out a straight path for your feet; then stick to the path and stay safe.” Proverbs 4:26 (NLT/TLB)

“Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” 1 Corinthians 14:40 (NIV)

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_

“Live life with a due sense of responsibility, not as those who do not know the meaning of life but as those who do. Make the best use of your time . . . Don't be vague but grasp firmly what you know to be the will of the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:15-17 (PHILLIPS)

## NEHEMIAH'S 7 STEP PLANNING MODEL

Nehemiah 1:11-2:9

#### STEP 1: \_\_\_\_\_

“O Lord, please hear my prayer! And listen to the prayers of all your servants who love to honor you. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the king's presence.’ In those days I was the king's wine steward.” Nehemiah 1:11

“If you want to know what God wants you to do, just ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a generous supply of wisdom to all who ask him.”

James 1:5 (TLB)

#### STEP 2: \_\_\_\_\_

“Four months later, when King Artaxerxes was dining, I took the wine to him.” Nehemiah 2:1

“A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn't and even brags about it!”

Proverbs 13:16 (TLB)

#### STEP 3: \_\_\_\_\_

“When King Artaxerxes was dining, I took the wine to him. He had never seen me look sad before, so he asked, ‘Why are you so sad? Your heart must be troubled.’ That made me very afraid.” Nehemiah 2:1-2

### WHAT NEHEMIAH DID WITH HIS FEAR:

#### 1. HE \_\_\_\_\_

“I was scared BUT I replied, ‘Long live the king! Why shouldn't I be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and all its gates have been burned down!’” Nehemiah 2:2-3

#### 2. HE \_\_\_\_\_

“The king replied to me, ‘Well, what is it you want?’ Then I prayed again to the God of heaven.” Nehemiah 2:4

#### STEP 4: \_\_\_\_\_

“After praying I answered, ‘If it pleases Your Majesty and if your servant has found favor in your sight, send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it.’” Nehemiah 2:5

#### STEP 5: \_\_\_\_\_

“Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, ‘How long will your work take, and when will you get back?’ The king was willing to send me so I set a time!” Nehemiah 2:6

#### STEP 6: \_\_\_\_\_

“Then I asked the king to give me letters for the governors of territories west of the Euphrates river, giving me safe travel to Judah. I also asked for a letter to the keeper of the king's royal forests, instructing him to supply me with the timber I needed to rebuild the gates of the city, the city walls, and for a house to live in.”

Nehemiah 2:7-8

“A sensible man looks for the problems ahead and prepares to meet them.”

Proverbs 27:12 (TLB)

Jesus: “You'll never be my disciple if you're not willing to carry your cross and follow me. So don't begin until you count the cost. Who would begin building without first figuring the cost and seeing if they had enough to complete it?” Luke 14:27-28

#### STEP 7: \_\_\_\_\_

“Because God's gracious favor was on me, the king gave me everything I asked for.” Nehemiah 2:8

“We may make our plans, but God has the last word.” Proverbs 16:1 (GNT)

“What you ought to say is, ‘IF it is the Lord's will, we will live long enough to do this or that.’” James 4:15