

A Plan For Church Growth



THE LORD'S CHURCH

Day of Pentecost **Acts 2** 3,000 obeyed the gospel

Church growth **Acts 4** 5,000 were numbered

Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied. (**Acts 9:31**)

Colossians 1:23 “Every creature under heaven”

BACKGROUND

- ✓ Nehemiah was a cupbearer **Nehemiah 1:11**
- ✓ **586 BC** Jerusalem captured/Temple burned
- ✓ **538 BC** Persia defeats Babylon
- ✓ **536 BC** Cyrus releases Jews **Ezra 1:1-4**
20 years later Temple rebuilt

Nehemiah comes to Jerusalem in **445 BC**

Remarkable story found in **Nehemiah 6:15-16**



Nehemiah Cared

Nehemiah 1:1-4; 2:1-3

- His care for the work of the Lord was evident (v2)
- He had concern for what mattered most to him.

"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which has been brought on me, which the Lord has inflicted In the day of His fierce anger.
(Lamentations 1:12)

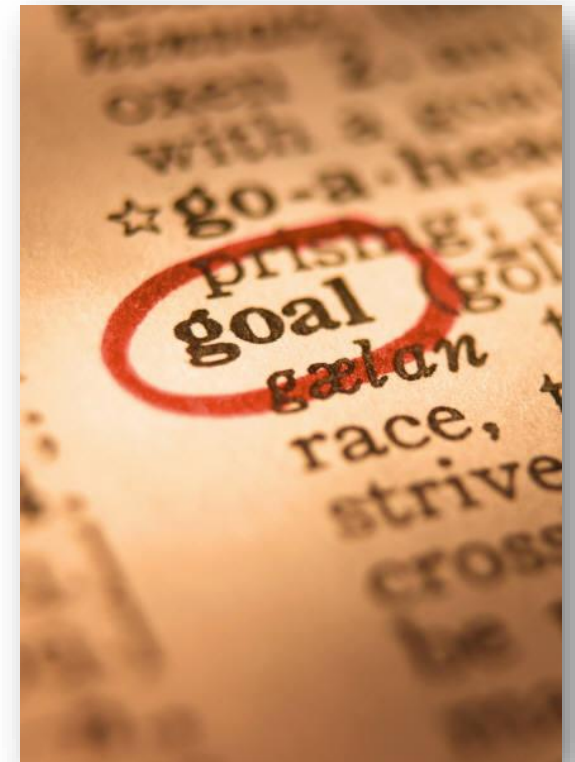
The work of the Lord can only be accomplished by those who have a deep care for its success!



Growth Is Planned

Nehemiah 2:12-16

- He looked to see what needed to be done
- Goals need to be set
- Definite goals must be set
- Realistic goals must be set
- Without goals no work can succeed
- Laodicea (**Revelation 3:14**)



Leaders Men Of Prayer

Leaders are people of prayer

Nehemiah 1:4; 2:4; 4:9

Nehemiah's prayers:

Nehemiah 5:19; 6:9,14



CHURCH GROWTH DEPENDS ON GOD

James 1:5-8 applies to church growth

Encourage One Another

Nehemiah 2:18

- Men like Barnabas **Acts 4:36**
- They built one another up!
- We must do the same **Hebrews 10:24**
- Do not be discouraged by criticism

Nehemiah 2:18-20

You can't help someone uphill without getting closer to the top yourself



Everyone Is Important

Nehemiah 3

- Use everyone – find something for everyone to do!
- Don't leave anyone out (verse 12)
- People will not think about an organization unless they are involved.
- Be willing to work!
- Be willing to do your job without being asked.



Do Not Quit; No Matter

Nehemiah 3:5

- Some will not work!
- Do your work regardless of others.
- Do more – **Nehemiah 3:27**
- Be the leaven!
- A small work of even a few will accomplish a lot

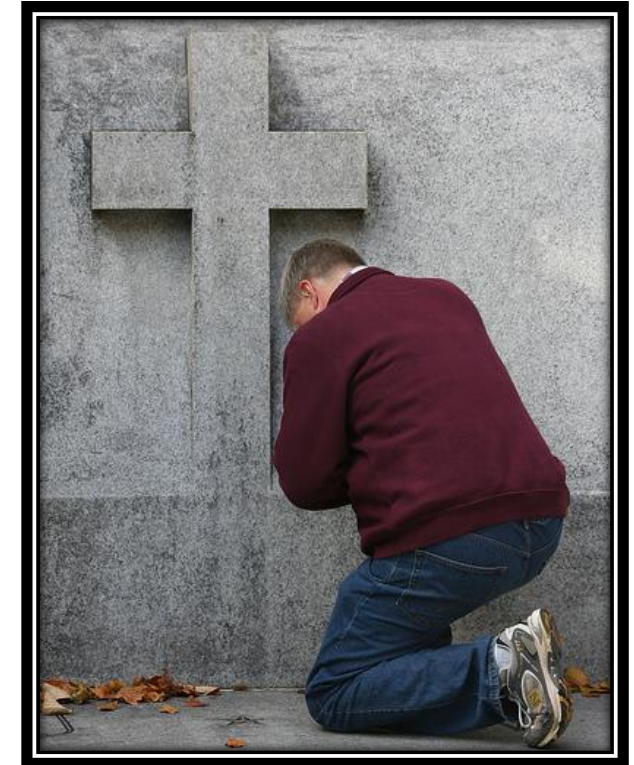
**DONT
QUIT**

God Will Help Us

Nehemiah 4

- Situation (vv7,8)
- Remedy (vv16-18)
- God will help (v20)

When we pray for church growth, we believe God will bless our work.



It Takes Hard Work

Nehemiah 4:21

- Church growth comes about by hard work; it does not just happen.
- Reaping is work

Matthew 20:1-2

- Workers wanted!




Don't Get Bogged Down

Nehemiah 6:1-4

- *“Come let us reason together”* is a waste of precious time (v2)
- Talking about the work will not get the work done.
- Do the work!





SO THE WALL WAS FINISHED ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF ELUL, IN FIFTY-TWO DAYS. AND IT HAPPENED, WHEN ALL OUR ENEMIES HEARD OF IT, AND ALL THE NATIONS AROUND US SAW THESE THINGS, THAT THEY WERE VERY DISHEARTENED IN THEIR OWN EYES; FOR THEY PERCEIVED THAT THIS WORK WAS DONE BY OUR GOD. (NEHEMIAH 6:15-16)

CHURCH GROWTH

From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what **every joint supplies**, according to the effective working by which **every part does its share**, causes **growth of the body** for the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:16