

Can you feel the passion growing? I can!

Love y'all

Pastor Heard

Part 21 - Feel the Passion!

Texts:

Ecclesiastes 9:7 (The Message) - "Seize life!"

Hebrews 4:14-16 (KJV) - "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. [15] For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Nehemiah 4:14 (NKJV) - "And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."

Key No. 12 (Part 7) – Incredible Keys to Incredible Breakthroughs!

A. The Key of EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP

1. Since you *are* a leader, God wants to develop you into a great one!
2. Your life was meant to make an impact upon others. For your life to count, you don't have to be the "president." Whether it's with your family,

friends, co-workers or church, your life should make a difference for many others. You were never created to be ordinary or mediocre.

3. With over 7 billion people living on this planet, every single one of us is unique. No one else has your fingerprints, your voice print or retinal pattern. Like the snowflakes, no two of us are alike.
4. The world and the Kingdom of God need you. When you approach a group of people, just your presence should cause heads to turn!
5. **Joke:** The Two Deer Hunters
Boudreaux, Thibodeaux, and a bunch of their buddies went on a deer hunt. Late in the afternoon, Boudreaux strolls into the camp carrying a huge buck on his back. One of the guys asks, "Where Thibodeaux is?" Boudreaux says, "He's back der in de woods a couple of miles. I tink he dun had a heart attack or sumting."
Shocked at what he heard, the buddy asks, "You mean you carried dat buck back, and left poor Thibodeaux laying out der in de woods?"
Boudreaux says, "Mais, yeh, it was a tough choice to make, but I figured nobody's gonna steal Thibodeaux!"
6. Don't let anyone say that your life doesn't matter. You have value! What is most terrifying to the devil is that someday you will wake up and discover who you were really meant to be in Christ!

B. Leadership Principle No.11 – Nehemiah taught and inspired his followers to pay the price for success. Make no mistake: success will cost you something. In fact, anything of value always has a price tag.

1. If you're ever told that you shouldn't have to face any opposition and that you should take the easy way out, that person is doing you a disservice!
 - a. **Psalm 34:19 (NKJV)** - "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, BUT THE LORD delivers him out of them ALL."

2. The enemy increased the pressure on Nehemiah and his people for a reason. When it seemed as if they were about to succeed, he became worried and turned up the heat!
 - a. **Nehemiah 4:12-14 (NKJV)** - "So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, "From whatever place you turn, they will be upon us." [13] Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. [14] And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."
3. Notice that it was the **Jewish** people near Sanballat and Tobiah who warned Nehemiah and the Israelites that they had no place to hide. No matter where they went, the enemy would attack. How do you like that for encouragement! And this same message was proclaimed ten times!
 - a. Jewish, covenant people who resided near Sanballat were responsible for the discouraging reports. But why would they want to stay close to the enemy? Don't listen to just any counsel. Look for the right kind of advice.
 - b. And to think that this same negative report was given ten times! It's like, "Enough is enough! I heard you the first time!" With friends like these, who needs enemies!
 - c. Some people feel compelled to point out how hard it's going to be and how likely it is to fail.
4. There will always be those who are supposedly on your side, yet are listening to the enemy and will tell you it can't be done, it's too hard, or that it's impossible. As believers, we must be careful not to get too close

- to the enemy or allow him to hinder what God is doing through His people by speaking words that cause fear or hinder our faith.
- a. That was the mistake of the ten spies who brought a negative, discouraging report. It was not those outside the camp who fixed their eyes on the problem rather than on God; it was His own people.
 - b. Ten of their own men initiated the wave of doubt and fear that caused Israel to wander for forty years in the wilderness—when they could have been enjoying their promised land.
 - c. The media provides more than enough negative information. The last thing we need is for our own brothers and sisters in the faith to cause us to doubt—or for us to do the same toward them!
5. Neither should we allow them to discourage or cause us to lose faith in what God has said! To maintain your faith, you must PAY THE PRICE!
- a. **Jude verse 3 (NKJV)** - "Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."
 - b. Notice he said it was **necessary** to exhort them to contend for the faith!
6. Human logic and reasoning are nearly **always** the ENEMY OF FAITH. Notice Jesus' warning to His disciples:
- a. **Mark 8:15-17 (NKJV)** - "Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." [16] And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have no bread." [17] But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened?"
 - b. The "leaven" of the Pharisees Jesus was referring to was their belief that legalism could bring them into relationship with God.

- c. Just as Herod's "leaven" was destroying babies, some churches embrace attitudes that not only kill their spiritual children, but their natural children as well. Consequently, they lose generation after generation of their youth.
 - d. Jesus also spoke about the "leaven" of the Sadducees for failing to believe in the supernatural.
- 7. When Jesus warned about the contamination of these three forms of leaven, the disciples questioned what He meant. If you try to determine God's ways with human logic, you could very well "reason" yourself right out of your faith—or limit what God wants to do in your life.
 - a. You may say, "I can't give because of the economy. . . . I can't go to church because it is raining . . . I can't take a stand for God because I may lose my job or someone will think less of me . . . I can't live with integrity because people will laugh at me or think I am old-fashioned."
 - b. "Why reason ye?" Jesus asked. He knew that merely observing things from a human perspective could talk you right out of a miracle!
 - c. The Bible instructs us to do many things that aren't logically correct. Consider Naaman dipping in the muddy Jordan River rather than the clean water back home; anointing the sick with oil; celebrating communion; or honoring the Lord with our tithes and first-fruits, just to name a few.
 - d. The wisdom of heaven is often diametrically opposed to the wisdom of this world. The world says, "Don't get mad, get even!" Jesus says, "If you refuse to forgive, bitterness and anger will destroy you—not the one who did you wrong!" The world says, "Blessed are the rich!" Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor."
 - e. Each of His teachings provides a key that will allow the supernatural in your life.

- f. People who desire to always be in control will try to determine everything in advance before agreeing with you. By elevating their human intellect to the level of the Creator, they are guilty of ungodly pride and arrogance.
7. The only way logic and reasoning can be superior is when God's logic and reasoning support a thesis.
- a. **Isaiah 1:18-19 (NKJV)** - "Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. [19] If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land."
 - b. We humans can never understand God's logic and reasoning. His ways and thoughts will always be higher than the heavens are above the earth. How can a Holy Savior's red blood wash our darkened hearts and make them as white as snow? How could a Holy God give His only begotten Son for us? How can a grown man be born again? . . . That is God's logic at work!
 - c. This is why the widow in 1 Kings 17 could give her last cake as an offering to the man of God and then be so supernaturally sustained, her supply of oil and flour would endure for three years in the midst of a famine and a recession with runaway inflation!
 - d. This is how God's logic works. Human logic would have talked her out of giving away her last bit of food, which would have resulted in the same suffering as those around her—and possibly the death of both mother and son.
 - e. Only through God's logic could one person put to flight a thousand and two put to flight ten thousand. Such logic is far beyond the human intellect! The mathematics just do not work!
8. People who complain about hard times are right about one thing: success is not free! It will cost you something. Whether it's your ministry,

- business, sports, education, career or whatever, you **can** succeed and accomplish what others have not done—if you're willing to pay the price.
9. You must pay the price of SELF-PREPARATION. That's an investment of extra time and effort after all the others have gone home.
 - a. Those who were involved in Nehemiah's project had to learn new skills. None of them were masons, nor was Nehemiah an experienced leader. But God was with them!
 - b. Expect to pay the price of learning new skills and being stretched so you can grow to the next level.
 - c. Albert Einstein's definition of insanity was to do the same thing over and over again, yet expect different results.
 - d. You don't want to be stuck where you are for the rest of your life. If you want to be elevated by God, you must determine to pay the price for that to happen.
 10. You must pay the price of PERSEVERANCE.
 - a. Keep hanging in there! Nehemiah could have said, "Since we have so many strong enemies, let's just hide." But he didn't. He encouraged his people to stay the course.
 - b. By positioning each man's family behind him, the breakthrough was not just for himself; it included his wife and children.
 - c. Failing to pay the price will cause our families to suffer. If a father is not the priest God intended him to be, his kids will never attain the level they could have reached.
 11. People often speak of 'paying the price for success.' And it's true that there is a price to pay. But remember: you will also pay a price for mediocrity or failure! Either way, a price must be paid. If you've paid the price to succeed, that's the one you will enjoy.
 - a. The story has been told of a pianist whose great talent was so easy to achieve, he never really committed himself to doing his very best. Then one night he dreamed that someone was playing the

piano in the drawing room. As he entered the room, he saw a man sitting at the piano who looked familiar. Even the song had a strangely familiar tune. He recognized the melody, . . . yet he didn't, if you know what I mean. But when the pianist turned to face him, he was shocked to see that he was the man. Quietly he asked, "Who are you and what is the song you are playing?" The man in his dream answered, "I am the man you could have been—and this is the song you could have composed."

- b. You don't want to come to the end of your life and wonder what you could have done or who you could have become!
12. I enjoy watching C.T. grow and for so many believers to become powerful for God. Has the road you've traveled ever been challenging or difficult? Oh yes, I'm sure it has! But what is more difficult is refusing to pay the price to succeed and being mediocre the rest of your life—when you could have excelled!
 13. This is the meaning of Jesus' words in **Matthew 16:25 (NKJV)**, "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."
 - a. Fail to pay the price and you lose! Pay the price—and you win!