

# The Strategic Pastor

Neh. 1:1-4

Introduction:

Being “Strategic” comes from having a “strategy” which means – “a carefully devised plan of action to achieve a goal, or the art of developing or carrying out such a plan”. (WWW) book – The Strategy of Satan – he has a carefully devised plan! – for pastors and the church – (But so does God also – “I will build My church...”)

## I. Strategic Pastors Have a Passion in the Soul – (1:11)

### A. His heart was stirred – (vs.1- \*4)

**Pastor, are you passionate about your preaching each week from God’s word?**

(Col. 3:17/23) And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father”.

- Passion is **Aggressive not Passive** – Gets the job done- (6:15) “So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days.”
- Passion is **Contagious** – (Lets GO and get it done – (2:18) “And they said, Let us rise up and build.”

### B. His head was spinning – (2:5-8) (\*3/5)

**Pastor, are you excited about the ministry into which God has placed you?**

(Eccl. 9:10) Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

- There are times we all aren’t Excited about- (people, place, problems).
- We need to step back and SEE the (Potential of the ministry where God has placed you!)
- (Potential to Grow the people or to grow ourselves)

### C. His hands were steady – (2:9, 18)

- Are you Excited and Passionate about the teaching and preaching of God’s Word to your church?
- (Preparation – Perspiration [studying and preaching] – Proclamation)

(1Cor. 2:4) And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

**Be Yourself –but Preach with Excitement and Passion – through the Spirit of God!**

**Passion comes Not from the Place you serve, but the Person You serve – Jesus Christ and His church!**

## II. Strategic Pastors Have a Purpose in a Vision -

“One definition of vision is [a mental image of a preferable future]. As you study God’s Word and understand the needs of the people and the needs of your church, His vision for your particular ministry will begin to come clearly into focus. Every church is different and deserves a spiritual leader who will seek God’s heart in specifically applying and developing God’s vision.”  
**(Dr. Paul Chappell- The Spiritual Leader)**

### A. Heard from God – (2:11-12)

- “what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem”
- Have we asked God for a vision?
- Are we staying on track with the vision God gave us?
- Satan wants to distract the Pastor from God’s vision for the church!

### B. Surveyed the Sight – (2:13-16) (\*13a “I went out”)

- (Personal examining the condition of the church overall)
- (People and Plant or buildings / conditions of both)
- (Discouraged people will have degrading buildings)

### C. Envisioned a plan – (2:17-18)

“Those who have most powerfully and permanently influenced their generation have been [seers] – people who have seen more and father than others – persons of faith, for faith is vision” (J. Oswald Sanders - Spiritual Leadership)

### Steps to God’s vision:

1. Go to God in prayer – “Ye have not because ye ask not” (James 4:2)
2. Seek and Study God’s Word - (God is more than willing to show us His vision)  
(Ps. 119:105) Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.  
(Ps. 119:130) The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.
3. Be willing and submissive to whatever God shows you to do:  
(Philp. 2:13) For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

## III. Strategic Pastors Have a Plan in Action – “Those who fail to plan, plan to fail”

### A. This is for You and the Church – (2:17-18)

- He was imparting his “Passion and Vision” to the people – **[Pastors part]!**
- They embraced his “Passion and Vision” with commitment – **[Peoples part]!**
- He knew the Where, How, When, Why they were doing the ministry of God!

### B. Strategic Growth – (from Gene Mims – Kingdom Principles For Church Growth)

- Don’t confuse “methods with Biblical Principles” methods change – principles do not change!

- (Mims) suggests ***Five Functions*** that Every church can and must do to grow.
- These are not new, nor profound, but many times have lost their meaning and practice in our churches.

**The Five Functions are:**

- 1. Evangelism** – No church can grow effectively without (Witnessing and Soul-winning) (Preach it, Teach it, and Example it to the church) (***Failure is decline and death***)
- 2. Discipleship** – there is much talk about it, but very little practiced in churches. (This calls for commitment from both the teacher and the disciple)
- 3. Fellowship** – (Not just getting together for a meal – includes both personal and church fellowship with God at the church and in the home) (A interpersonal relationship because of our relationship with Jesus)
- 4. Ministry** – (Ministry naturally follows - Evangelism and Discipleship – in the Christian development) (these will be occurring at the same time) (don't let ministry overshadow – Evangelism and Discipleship)
- 5. Worship** – (Showing adoration and reverence should be our first priority – to humble ourselves before Him)

(Mims) “True worship should lead worshipers to a deeper appreciation for God, a better understanding of His ways, and to a deeper commitment to Him. Encountering God in worship transforms us more and more into His likeness.”

**What we Emphasize, will be Exercised in the church!**

Keep your (Passion – Vision and Action) in the power of the Spirit for God's glory!