



### ---Message Notes

The Best is Yet to Come: From Languishing to Flourishing

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September 11/12th

“COURAGE is not just one of the virtues but the form of EVERY VIRTUE at its TESTING POINT.” - C.S. Lewis

[Nehemiah 1:1](#)

God doesn't call the qualified.

GOD QUALIFIES THE CALLED.

Your strong hand symbolizes the gifts that God has given to you.

Your weak hand symbolizes the things that don't come naturally.

God wants to use that weak hand because His power is made perfect in weakness.

That's how God gets the glory, He does things that you can't take credit for.

Go after a dream that is destined to fail without divine intervention. That's what Nehemiah does.

[Nehemiah 1:2-3](#) - Two times it says SURVIVE. It's the Hebrew word *shaar* and it means left over or left behind. The Hebrew root means TO SWELL UP. It's emotional inflammation. These Jewish refugees are living in SURVIVAL MODE. They are languishing.

[Nehemiah 1:4](#)

What makes you CRY or POUND YOUR FIST on the table? You have to pay attention to those emotions because those emotions often double as God-ordained passions.

### **Nehemiah sat down and WEPT.**

If something causes you to WEEP, maybe God is trying to get your attention. If something causes you to pound your fist on the table—to mourn and fast and pray for days on end—it's a pretty good indication that God wants you to do something about it.

### [Psalm 56:8](#)

Some of you need to CRY out to the Lord.

Some of you need to intercede with your tears.

Most of us will never see the inside of a prison cell but we are a prisoner to experiences in our past. We let the enemy hold us hostage.

### [Romans 8:1](#)

What puts a smile on your face?

“The voice we should listen to most as we choose a vocation is the voice we might think we should listen to least, and that is the VOICE OF GLADNESS.” - [Fredrick Buechner](#)

“When I run, I feel God’s pleasure.” - [Eric Liddell](#)

### [Psalm 37:4](#)

“Some higher or wider interest arose on the person’s horizon, and through this widening view, the INSOLUBLE PROBLEM lost its urgency. It was not solved logically on its own terms, but faded out when confronted with a new and stronger life-tendency.” - [Carl Jung](#)

One of the best ways to solve our problem is to help solve someone else’s problem.

### [Nehemiah 1:5-6](#)

You can't REPENT of sins you have not committed. That's called a false confession. But you can LAMENT the sins of previous generations.

We lament the past, but without a vision the people perish. Without a vision, it turns into languishing.

### [Nehemiah 1:11](#)

God honors bold prayers because bold prayers honor God.

OPPOSITION is not cause for concern. A lack of opposition is the cause for concern because it might mean you're not making much of a difference.

### [Luke 2:52](#)

As a church we are called to be REBUILDERS of the breach.

### [Isaiah 58:12](#)

We're called to stand in the gap as peace makers, grace givers, and truth tellers.

We're not just trying to BUILD A CHURCH.

We're trying to BLESS A CITY to the third and fourth generation.

We think right here, right now.

God is thinking nations and generations.

This weekend, we relaunch our [LINCOLN THEATRE campus](#).

On October 3, we launch our combined [NOVA campus](#).

In the next two weeks, we will launch two network churches.

[New Seasons Community Church](#) in Gainesville, VA on Sept 19.

And [Hope Baltimore](#) on Sept 26.

## **2021 is an outrageous time to dream**

We live at the intersection of two theologies, two realities. The FAITHFULNESS of God is pursuing us from the past—SO FAR SO GOD. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. And the SOVEREIGNTY of God is setting us up for the future. God is ordering our footsteps. God is preparing good works in advance.

Don't put a PERIOD where God puts a COMMA.

Don't lose faith in the end of the story.

By faith, THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

### **A PRAYER to PRAY:**

Our Father in Heaven teach us to recognize our passions and dreams. Help us to appreciate that we need You to make our dreams a reality. Help us to see that in our weakness You show Yourself strong, and we don't need to worry because You are always with us. Let us spend time this week meditating on this truth. Let us take time to think about what makes us cry and what makes us pound the table, and then let us ask You what we should do with that information. Who should we help? Where should we go? What is the first step? As we learned last week, how can we step into the water and make these dreams reality with Your help. All this we pray in Jesus' name Amen.

### **---ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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