

Seeing the Big Picture

“Our shipment will be here tomorrow,” announced my husband, Terry, as he was reading his e-mails.

The “shipment” was a beautiful bedroom set, consisting of a bed, two end tables, a chest of drawers, a mirror and a huge armoire – all sale-priced and perfectly designed for the dream house we had in mind.

The only problem was, we had just moved halfway across the country from our former home and were stuck for seven months in a tight, cramped apartment. Though we were sure our dream house was a future reality, we were now faced with the dilemma of fitting dream-house-sized bedroom furniture into a living space much too small for it.

Terry saw my discouragement and reassured me: “Honey, we’ll find a place for the armoire. How about next to the dining room table?” I agreed, but not without shuddering at the thought of its doors flying open to dinner guests, revealing unkempt piles of underwear.

Lord, what had we gone and done?

Were we wrong to believe we could have dream-home stuff while living in a small apartment? Were we wrong to dream at all?

For some reason, I thought of Nehemiah, who was called by God to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem (see Neh. 2-4). In order to step into God’s plans for restoring the wall, he first had to get beyond what he saw in

the natural – terrible destruction and the animosity of those who “were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel” (Neh. 2:10). Even when he was derided and threatened by his enemies, Nehemiah continued to work on the wall and to encourage those with him to persevere.

I realized that Terry and I were somewhat like Nehemiah – looking beyond our present circumstances and envisioning a bigger picture for our lives than what was in view at the moment.

Today, I invite you to consider something God is calling you to do – plans for you that go beyond what presently meet your eye. Perhaps He is directing you to begin a new career, start a ministry or step out in faith for something you’ve never done before. God’s Word tells us to live not by what we see (“the seen”) but by what we do NOT see (“the unseen”): “We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Cor. 4:18, NKJV).

I ask you to join me in stepping out of the scope of YOUR vision into the scope of HIS vision for you. God’s Word reveals the scope of His vision: It tells us that God “is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Eph. 3:20).

When Nehemiah built the wall, he did it by stepping out in

faith. He went from the reduction and destruction of the past into production for the future. When Nehemiah began to build the wall, he stepped into God's vision, or big picture, for him.

Regardless of where you are or what you've been through, God has a big picture for your life – one that is bigger and brighter than what presently meets the eye. And He is more than able to bring it into focus for you and cause it to become reality! Don't be afraid to dream big.

PRAYER POWER FOR THE WEEK OF 9/26/2011

This week put action to your faith concerning the things God has called you to do. Thank Him for the "big picture" He has for your life, and the wonderful harvest, healing and impact He's bringing around the world.

Continue to pray for our country's leaders as they strive to restore the economy and move the nation in the right direction. Remember Israel as it faces challenges in the United Nations and pray that we will continue to stand in its support. Start praying for the 2012 elections and remember those persecuted for His Name's sake. Neh. 2:11-20; Eph. 3:20

To enrich your prayer life and learn how to strategically pray with power by using appropriate scriptures, we recommend the following sources by Apostle John Eckhardt: Prayers that Rout Demons, Prayers that Bring Healing, Prayers that Release Heaven on Earth and Prayers that Break

Curses. *To order any or all of these [click here](#).*