



RESTART – PART 4 – RECLAIM MY FUTURE

You may not be where you expected to be... but you can still get where

Where there is no vision, the people perish...

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

... anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT)

NEHEMIAH CHAPTERS 1-6

RECLAIMING MY FUTURE IS:

1. A _____ NOT A _____.

I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

2. ABOUT _____.

...God's will was for us to be made holy...

Hebrews 10:10 (NLT)

...throw off your old nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception.

Ephesians 4:22 (NLT)

3. A _____.

"I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"

Nehemiah 6:3 (NASB)

Recommended Resources

- *Hearing God*, by Dallas Willard
- *The Principle of the Path*, by Andy Stanley
- *Visioneering*, by Andy Stanley



Restart Week Four

Opening Prayer: God, thank you for welcoming our honest conversation about life and you. Help us to create a safe space where our friendship and faith can be better built.

This week we looked at the basic principle that our path, not our intent, determines our destination. In other words, more often than not, where we end up in life — professionally, academically, relationally, financially, spiritually, and so on — is determined by the way we choose to live, not our intention.

- Have you ever spent time thinking you were on one path and later realizing you were on a different path? This can be a story about getting physically lost, or about being blind to the consequences you were creating or the direction you were headed in.

Read Philippians 3:12-14 and 2 Corinthians 5:17

Although many of us would like to believe that we travel in a straight shot to our reclaimed future, the journey we are invited on doesn't usually come from instantaneous change. Transformation is a process — it's not a one time event. Reclaiming our future means being okay with a process and zigzag journey of sorts. That being said, it's our job to live day by day leaning into the transformation process with God.

- When it comes to your own journey, are you generally okay or frustrated with slow change and growth? When dealing with other people, are you generally okay or frustrated by slow growth?
- How has your trust in God grown through the process of transformation or your own zigzag journey?
- Considering your journey or the journey of others, in what ways have you seen God's grace have a powerful role in slow journey or zigzag journey?

Read 1 Peter 4:8 and Hebrews 10:10

Reclaiming our future is about becoming whole. The transformation God invites us into is best played out in community. While it's not our job to fix one another or to take ownership over someone else's life, God often uses people to help us and spark change in us. We cannot be whole or holy alone. We need others love and support.

- In what difficult or enjoyable ways have you observed God use relationships as a tool?
- Considering your entire life, who has helped you reclaim your life? What was this process like? How did this person love and support you?
- Through your love and support, who have you been able to help and spark change in?

Read Nehemiah 6:3 (NASB) and Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

We can all get to where God wants us to go — no matter the baggage we bring to the table. Depending on our

current reality, reclaiming our future may take time and hard work. We may be challenged, discouraged and face resistance, but when we open ourselves up to God, and commit to doing our part, we reclaim our future.

Take a few minutes to quietly reflect on the current path your life is on. Ask God for wisdom and insight while you consider if you're headed where you want go, are there any changes you need to implement, any conversations you need to have, any people you need to seek out or remove yourself from, any areas you need to seek help in or any next right steps you want to take.

After a few minutes of quiet, share what your next right step is with the group.

Closing Prayer: God, you know the desires of our heart and the paths we are on. Help us to align our hearts and life with your will and the dreams you have placed in us. We want to reclaim our future by becoming who you made us to be and by living the life you want.