

Decide It

² So the king said to me, "Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart." Then I was very much afraid.

³ I said to the king, "Let the king live forever. Why should my face not be sad when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire?"

Nehemiah 2:2-3 (NASB)

Observation

If desire is the birthing place of faith, then decision is the next step. In this passage, Nehemiah is confronted with a decision-making moment. The king asks him why he is sad, and Nehemiah is terrified. In those days it was completely unacceptable to be downcast in the presence of the king. In this moment Nehemiah has to make a decision whether he will pull back or move forward. Nehemiah "decides" to move forward in faith by telling the king about his vision.

Each one of us will come to a similar situation in our own faith journey. It is one thing to have a strong desire for something in prayer, and it is another to decide to do it. God wants us to have the courage to commit to what He has placed in our hearts. There will be moments when it is easier to turn back and change course, but at this point of decision, great faith is built. Remember this: The determined decision of a person burns with desire. Let the strong desire God has placed in your heart outweigh the fear and doubt. Make a strong decision today.

Application

Have you decided to commit to what God has placed in your heart to do? Take time today to evaluate this question: "Am I letting fear drive me or am I allowing the desire God has placed in my heart to guide me?" Take time to pray about your decision and commitment to serve God through the Open: Next Chapter journey.