

It's Time for a Reset

a) Not a New Vision—A Renewed Passion

- Not starting over
- Starting fresh
- Like restarting a slow computer—clearing drift and distraction

b) Biblical Pattern

- Haggai & Zechariah stirred the people after 16 years of delay
- The foundation was laid—but the house unfinished

Biblical Principles for Building God's House

a) Our Journey This Year

- Walking through Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
- A season of rebuilding after delay, discouragement, and opposition
- God restores through:
 - Right foundations
 - Stirred hearts
 - Corrected priorities
 - Covenant realignment

b) These Principles Still Apply

- God builds through obedience, repentance, alignment, renewed vision
- We are building a church aligned with:
 - God's eternal purpose
 - His presence
 - End-time overcoming

c) Looked At Three Principles Already

1. Casting vision requires stating the problem clearly.
2. Casting vision requires stating the solution clearly.
3. We must leave Babylon.

d) Look At Two More Today

4. Don't despise the day of small beginnings.
5. We must own the vision.

4. Don't Despise the Day of Small Beginnings

a) Zechariah 4:9–10

b) Unfinished Work

- Foundation laid but house unfinished for 16 years
- "We will never complete this house."
- "The foundation will just be here forever."
- "Solomon's temple was glorious; this is so small and insignificant."

c) Small Thinking Internalized

- Limitation -> hinderance -> delay
- Unbelief that prevented God from working

d) We Have Internalized Smallness

- "We're just a tight-knit community"
- "We're just a small church."
- "We go deep, not wide."
- "We're not that kind of church."

e) Show Stoppers When . . .

- Destiny statements
- Defining statements
- Limit us from being what God intends

f) A Small Church for 35

- God takes decades shaping before multiplying
- Israel 40 years in the wilderness
- Moses 80 years of preparation
- David many years fleeing Saul
- John the Baptist 30 years in obscurity
- The remnant delayed for 16 years
- God never in a hurry to shape a vessel that can carry His glory.

g) The Grasshopper Mentality

- Numbers 13–14
- “We became like grasshoppers in our own sight” (Num. 13:33).
- The issue wasn’t giants—it was self-perception.
- Internal narrative greater than God’s intentions for them.

h) Grasshopper Mentality Defined:

- Internalize smallness
- Small expectations
- Familiar ceilings

i) Church Culture

- Church culture is like the smell of your house
- Your house has a scent, but you don’t know it—too familiar.
- Ex.: the Zeke smell when we get back from vacation.
- Visitors smell our house and we don’t even know it.
 - Our lack of honor for God by lateness
 - Our lack of taking church seriously by not coming
 - Our lack of passion when we don’t worship wholeheartedly
 - Our lack of expectation for growth

j) Key Thoughts

- Difference between being small because God is shaping you and remaining small because you expect to be.
- The danger is when memory of the past > God’s intention for the future
- Define by past
 - Size
 - Capacity
 - Outcomes
 - Failures
- See yourself small -> think small -> structure small -> limits God
- Need to see ourselves right

k) The Indiana Football Story

l) The 10,000 Hours Principle

- My testimony at 54
- Finding your unique voice
- Voice emerges through repetition
- You become a voice not an echo
- Authenticity takes time

m) Corporate Parallel—35 Years as a Church

- Takes time to find and grow into your identity
- Many years struggle to survive, find who you are, imitate, proving yourself
- We are not reinventing
- We are realigning
- The past is our foundation—not our boundary

n) Philippians 3:13–14

- Forgetting does not mean erasing
- It means refusing limitation

o) Two Ways the Past Limits a Church:

1. Past disappointments (“We tried that before”)
2. Past definitions (“This is just who we are”)

p) An Invisible Ceiling

- Both mindsets create an invisible ceiling
- Familiarity leads to losing sight of God’s intentions
- God still does more than we can ask or think – Eph. 3:20

q) Encouragement from Lifeschool

- Trained over 10,000 pastors—that’s shaping 10,000 churches
- 2,700 new pastors—limit registration
- If God can do that in Africa, why not here?

The Foundation Laid—But the House Is Not Finished

a) Haggai / Zechariah Context

- 16 years of stalled construction
- Foundation without completion

- Like us—foundation laid, house incomplete
- Like us—discouragement and misplaced priorities stopped the work

b) Zech. 4:6–10—the Lord’s Word to Us

- Your hands laid the foundation and will finish the house
- Not by might nor power
- Do not despise small beginnings
- What God started, He will finish

c) Key Declaration:

- The last 35 years formed us.
- The next 15 will multiply us.
- I am giving the next 15 years of my life to doing whatever it takes for this church to be all that God intends.
- What about you?

Growth and Multiplication

a) Almost 70 People

b) 200 of the Right People

- Not a megachurch
- Impact hungry, humble, and hurting people in this area
- Growth with wrong people is a nightmare
- Growth with right people is a blessing

c) Like Dating for Marriage

- Must be a good fit for both
- We must be a good fit for them
- They must be a good fit for us
- We are not desperate

d) Soon On a Dating App

- Google AdWords
- One reason stressing being on church on time and coming every week
- One chance to make a good impression

- I don't have a problem telling people, "Let's just be friends. It's not you; it's me."
- We must be at our best for God first and others second (us and visitors).

Re-Plant Mindset

a) Not Starting Over—Starting Fresh

- Same:
 - People
 - Mission
 - DNA
 - Leaders
- New:
 - Expectancy
 - Boldness
 - Stewardship
 - Refusal to self-limit

b) Key Thoughts

- We are not changing our mission; we are recovering movement.
- Our past is our foundation; not our ceiling.
- The last 35 years formed us; the next 15 will multiply us.

5. We Must Own the Vision.

a) Nehemiah 2:17–18

- "Come, let us rebuild."
- The vision became shared language.

b) Ownership Defined

- Not the pastor's project
- The church's kingdom assignment
- Not just the pastor's responsibility—your responsibility
- Shift from consumer → participant

c) What Ownership Looks Like

- Supplying your best every week

- Honoring God with:
 - Time
 - Money
 - Gifts
 - Service

d) Nehemiah 3—Everyone Had a Section

- Individuals, families, priests, workers, leaders: all had a role
- Nehemiah 3 is one of the clearest pictures of ownership in Scripture
- “Next to him”
- “Beside his house”
- Shared responsibility—everyone takes responsibility for their portion of the wall

e) Key Thought

- Leaders equip. Saints build. (Eph. 4:11–12)
- Spirit-inspired vision restarts the work; ownership sustains it.
- Every part of the body must supply for the growth of the body.