

## **Maintaining The Walls With Caution Our Spiritual Pedigree & The Word Of God**

### **We Must Remember These Facts About Nehemiah They Will Help Us Stand In Difficult Times**

He was aware of the magnitude of the task  
He never forgot his own identity: he belonged to God  
He was free from the influence of others  
He put common sense into practice  
Above everything else, he prayed.  
He subjected everything to the wisdom of God. Proverbs 3:5-6

### **Progress requires caution: special care & awareness.**

We can never let our guard down.  
We are always subject to attack, and must remain cautious.  
Nehemiah 7:3 And I said to them, "Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot."

### **Our Spiritual Pedigree Must Be Sure**

We need to make sure we are part of God's family, (the spiritual family) we enter by trusting Jesus Christ

In Nehemiah 7:6-60, we have a list of the families of those who were able to prove their ancestry, (spiritual heritage).

**The spiritual application of this is that we need to know that we really belong to God:** We will never be a successful servant of Christ, nor ever faithfully work for Him and serve Him, until we are assured that we know Him and belong to Him.

**Only true family members could live in Old Jerusalem. Only true spiritual family members will live in the New Jerusalem (eternity in Heaven).**

2 Corinthians 13:5a Examine yourselves, whether you be in the faith; prove your own selves.

### **Reinstruction and The Word Of God**

After reconstruction of the wall, there is a great need for reinstruction of the people. We must learn to see life from God's perspective. There was a great hunger for the Word of God among the people in Jerusalem.

## **The Word of God is the only sure foundation for rebuilding anything, especially a life.**

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1. We need to renew our minds, to be reinstructed in the truth, to correct our thinking so we begin to think as God thinks. Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
2. Renewal involves a careful hearing of the Word of God.
3. We need to apply this to our own lives by acknowledging our past error and failure and confessing to God and praising him for his wonderful goodness.

### **We Must Seek The Point Of Possible Change**

We need the Word of God to help us change

The people were hungry for answers to their problems; they were hungry for guidelines from The Word, from God.

Nehemiah 8:1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spoke to Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.

This indicates the tremendous desire of these people for truth. They listened, while standing, from daybreak until noon! When the Word is opened up, people begin to understand themselves.

### **We Must Seek To Understand The Word Of God**

The primary business of Christians is to understand the Word of God in order to think more like God, and then live it out.

They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. They were breaking into small groups where people could ask questions and have them answered. Nehemiah 8:7-8

### **The Word of God Convicts & Heals**

“This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah 8:9

**They wept because they saw themselves in the mirror of God’s Word; their condition broke their heart.**

The Bible shows us what is wrong with our lives, what is creating the ruin and the disaster around us. As God's people listened to the reading of the Scriptures, they saw that the cause of their destitution and ruin lay in their own thoughts and attitudes.

Jesus made it clear what our problem is. What comes out of a man is what reveals him as 'unclean.' For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. Mark 7:20b-22

Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them. Nehemiah 8:10-12

**What a powerful statement of the effect of the Word of God! When people understand it, it brings joy. The Word of God is powerful and necessary to rebuild and reinstruct our lives.**