

# Celebration Time

**There are certain elements necessary for true Celebration to take place.**

I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of the wall. I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks. Nehemiah 12:27-31a

## **One Primary Element Of True Celebration Is The Expression Of Joy**

And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing. Nehemiah 12:27a

A general attitude of joy ought to characterize all Christians. Joy is not the same as happiness. Happiness is liking the present moment because it pleases us. Joy appreciates the past, the present, and the future, not because the circumstances are pleasing, but because the heart is right with God.

Happiness depends upon happenings, but joy depends upon justification, on being acceptable in God's eyes and being co-laborers with him. Happiness comes from without, but joy comes from within.

## **Purification Is Also Necessary For Celebration**

And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, and the gates, and the wall. Nehemiah 12:30

You cannot celebrate with God with a hypocritical heart. You cannot celebrate with your life in ruin, it will become a festival of empty words.

Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol, or swear by what is false. He will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from God his Savior. Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob. Psalms 24:3-6

Purification for us today is a simple, daily thing. It is not by rituals but by confessing our faults, and believing that God has forgiven them. It is a simple process: confess your sins, and your mistakes. Just admit them; do not try to blame somebody else for them.

**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9**

## **Thankfulness Is Always A Part Of True Celebration**

Then I brought up the princes of Judah on the wall, and appointed two great companies of them that gave thanks. Nehemiah 12:31

These people were thankful to God for every aspect of the blessings to them individually and to their nation.

One of the first signs of a growing, maturing spirit in young Christians is that they begin to give thanks to God for what He has done in their lives.

### **The Actual Celebration Procession**

Nehemiah divided his choirs to march around the city. Nehemiah 12:31b-37

### **The Offering During The Celebration**

At that time men were appointed to be in charge of the storerooms for the contributions. Nehemiah 12:44-47

### **The Offerings Were Given With Pleasure**

Judah was pleased with the ministering priests and Levites. Nehemiah 12:44b

The Scriptures teach with clarity that offerings mean nothing if they are not given cheerfully. If you are not pleased as your motive for giving, God does not want your gift. Give cheerfully.

2 Corinthians 8:12 For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. 9:7 Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver.

### **The Offerings Were Given Following The Tradition Of Purification**

And both the singers and the porters kept the ward (guard or watch) of their God, and the ward of the purification, according to the commandment of David, and of Solomon his son. Neh12:45

People in the public eye can easily be tempted to act from a wrong motive. This speaks of the need for each one who serves today to purify his or her motives before performing.

### **The Offerings Were Given While Thinking Of Others**

And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, every day his portion: and they sanctified holy things to the Levites; and the Levites sanctified them to the children of Aaron. Neh 12:47

They were careful to take care of others who were not able to be there, or who were busy performing and therefore did not have opportunity to share in the offerings.

**God was constantly trying to teach his people that they belonged to one another.**

They were to be a nation, they were not to be individualists, doing their own thing.

**They were workers together with God.**

We must recognize that our way of serving God is not the only way, but that we belong to and need one another.

**All of us can find many reasons to celebrate the MANY things that God has done for us. Let's do it with a thankful, grateful heart.**