



"Let Us Rise Up and Build"

Nehemiah 2:17-18

The Challenge

- Reasonable to weep and mourn (**Lamentations 3:46-57**).
- Great challenges can be overwhelming (**Numbers 13-14**)
- Discouragements distract & weaken, causing us to cease the Lord's work (**Ezra 4:1-5, 23-24**).
- Repeated, continual discouragements compound the challenge & difficulty (Nehemiah's 7 Challenges in Rebuilding the Wall):
 1. Mocking & reproach (**4:1-5**)
 2. Physical violence (**4:7-23**)
 3. Oppression of Usury (**5:1-13**)
 4. Lost Wealth (**5:14-19**)
 5. Peace Talk Murder Plot (**6:1-4**).
 6. Slander of Rebellion (**6:5-9**)
 7. Trap in the Temple (**6:10-14**)

The Solution

This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD. ... Let us search out and examine our ways, And turn back to the LORD; Let us lift our hearts and hands To God in heaven.

(Lamentations 3:21-26, 40-41)

1. Wise always examine self (Ecc. 7:13-14; Acts 5:5, 11; 1 Tim. 5:20).
2. Faithful ultimately trust, hope, and wait on the Lord (Ps.57).

God Preserves His Remnant

- Situations are rarely as bad as they *feel*:

And he said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.” Then the LORD said to him: “... Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.” (I Kings 19:14-18)

- Remnant existed continued even in Paul’s day (**Romans 11:2-5**)
- Has God ceased preserving His remnant?
- Much good and growth happening at Pepper Road!

God Wants Us to Succeed!

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of **Him who subjected it in hope**; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption **into the glorious liberty of the children of God.** (Romans 8:18-21)*

- Wants to forgive us (Ezekiel 18:23, 32).
- Wants all to repent and be saved (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4)

God Wants Us to be His Friend

- Abraham, “*friend of God forever*” (2Chr.20:7; Js.2:23)
- Daniel, “*O man greatly beloved*” (Daniel 10:11, 19)
- Gospel is designed to “*reconcile*” (2 Cor. 5:18-20)

*“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but **I have called you friends**, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:13-15)*

God Has Provided All We Need

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

“Come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16)

“Gave gifts to men ... apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers ...the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies ... causes growth of the body for edifying itself in love” (Ephesians 4:8-16)

More Than Conquerors

*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?** Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." **Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** For I am persuaded that **neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.** (Romans 8:31-39)*

Strength in Numbers?

*Two are **better** than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But **how can one be warm alone?** Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

Strength in the One God

But Jesus looked at them and said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26)

“Is anything too hard for the Lord” (Genesis 18:14)

Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, “Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few.” So his armorbearer said to him, “Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart.” (I Samuel 14:6-7)

Not Complete Without Us?

*And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who **through faith** subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, **out of weakness were made strong**, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – **of whom the world was not worthy**. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having **obtained a good testimony through faith**, did not receive the promise, **God having provided something better for us**, that **they should not be made perfect apart from us**. (Hebrews 11:32-40)*

Individual Growth

- Stand against the Devil using the whole armor of God (**Ephesians 6:10-18**).
- Develop fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-25**)
- Partake in the Divine Nature (**2 Peter 1:3-11**)
- Stand when others fade (**2 Timothy 4:16-18**)

“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?”

(Luke 16:10-11)

“Abound in Love”

- Love grows *“in knowledge and all discernment”* (Philippians 1:9-10).

“May the Lord make you to increase and abound in love to one another and to all” (1 The. 3:12-13; 1 John 4:7-12).

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. (1 Peter 3:8-9)

"Do Not Take to Heart"

*Also do not take to heart everything people say, Lest you hear your servant cursing you. For many times, also, your own heart has known That even you have cursed others.
(Ecclesiastes 7:21-22)*

The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory is to overlook a transgression. (Proverbs 19:11)

- ***Lesson:*** Overlook & ignore what can be overlooked & ignored.

“Be of One Mind”

*“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that **your brother has something against you**, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. **First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.**” (Matthew 5:23-24)*

- If we are reluctant to seek reconciliation with our brother, what does that imply about our outlook on...?
 - The power of God’s Word
 - Our estimation of their character or worth
 - Our character and our case

Be Hospitable

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. (1 Peter 4:8-9)

- Hospitality – love of stranger

*“Love ... bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things”
(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)*

- It's easy to think the worst of someone, when you don't know them ...

Be Hospitable

“When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.” (Luke 14:12-14)

“For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?” (Matthew 5:46-47)

- *“What have they done for me?” (Romans 5:8; Mat. 5:48)*

“Let Us Rise Up and Build”

- Examine self
- Know:
 - God *wants* us to succeed.
 - God *equips* us to succeed.
 - God will *help* us succeed, if we rely on God!
- Grow individually
- Abound in love toward each other
 - Ignore what can be ignored
 - Resolve conflicts
 - Let hospitality and brotherly kindness abound
- Rejoice in the confidence provided by the Lord’s promises

Can You Say?

...For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

(Hebrews 13:5-6)