

## THE POWER OF EVERYONE

### Nehemiah rebuilds the wall

<sup>2</sup> Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem. They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire." <sup>4</sup> When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven. **Nehemiah 1:2-4 NLT**

- **Nehemiah saw a need**
- **Nehemiah felt a burden for his people**
- **Nehemiah was moved to repentance**

<sup>5</sup> "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unflinching love with those who love him and obey his commands, <sup>6</sup> listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned! <sup>7</sup> We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses." **Nehemiah 1:5-7 NLT**

- **Nehemiah had a vision**
- **Realize a vision that goes beyond yourself**

<sup>1</sup> Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence. <sup>2</sup> So the king asked me, "Why are you looking so sad? You don't look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled." Then I was terrified, <sup>3</sup> but I replied, "Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire." <sup>4</sup> The king asked, "Well, how can I help you?" With a prayer to the God of heaven, <sup>5</sup> I replied, "If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried." **Nehemiah 2:1-5 NLT**

- **Rise to the Challenge with God's Power**
- **Nehemiah had a plan**

<sup>17</sup> But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" <sup>18</sup> Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work. **Nehemiah 2:17-18 NLT**

- **Everyone did his part**
- **Working side by side**

Above the Horse Gate, the priests repaired the wall. Each one repaired the section immediately across from his own house. **Nehemiah 3:28 NLT**

<sup>1</sup> Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, <sup>2</sup> saying in front of his friends and the Samaritan army officers, "What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they're doing? Do they think they can build the wall in a single day by just offering a few sacrifices? Do they actually think they can make something of stones from a rubbish heap - and charred ones at that?" **Nehemiah 4:1-2 NLT**

- **There will always be opposition by the enemy**
- **God will fight our battles**

### The Builders Complete the Wall

<sup>15</sup> So on October 2 the wall was finished - just fifty-two days after we had begun. <sup>16</sup> When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God. **Nehemiah 6:15-16 NLT**

### BUILD A LIFE OF SERVICE

"If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it." **Mark 8:35 NLT**

### BUILD A LIFE OF GENEROSITY

- **Giving is an Investment in Eternity**

<sup>17</sup> "Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. <sup>19</sup> By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life." **1 Timothy 6:17-19 NLT**

- **Each week we take up God's tithes and offerings**
- **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is our Big Give Offering**
- **Giving Blesses Me In Return**

"Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to." **Deuteronomy. 15:10 NIV**

- **Giving Strengthens My Faith**

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!" **Malachi 3:10 NLT**

- **Giving Makes Me Happy**

..."You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" **Acts 20:35 NLT**

Giving + Serving = Changed Lives