



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

"THOROUGHNESS"

(5 Keys of Power Part 7)

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Thoroughness is seeing something carried to completion with meticulous care. Although there are challenges to getting started, the greater challenge is in following through and making sure the job gets finished. Let us learn from the prophet Nehemiah who was called by God to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem which had been laying in rubble for over 100 years. Building the wall of Jerusalem seemed almost impossible but, through his dedication and God's favor and power, Nehemiah finished well. Likewise, we all need the virtue of thoroughness - to dedicate our time and heart doing God's work with diligence.

1. How did Nehemiah manage to finish the job well?

- 1.1 He prayed, fasted, planned and waited for the right time. God showed him success in organizing people for the hard work. He gave him a vision of a finished wall.
- 1.2 He kept his focus on God. He instructed the people to remember that He is a great and awesome God. He encouraged the people to continue, not to get tired and grow weary. He overcame all the obstacles his enemies placed in his path.
- 1.3 He refused to allow distractions derail God's work. He was a man of discernment. Nehemiah kept quiet and focused on what he was doing.
- 1.4 He learned to say "No" to the persistent messenger (Nehemiah 6).
- 1.5 He remembered his commitment to God.
- 1.6 He relied upon the strengthening of the Holy Spirit (Nehemiah 6:9). Nehemiah realized that he could not do the work on his own.
- 1.7 He was obedient to God.

1.8 He was aware that a life as a follower of Jesus was not always easy but he persisted despite all the obstacles (Jeremiah 8).

2. What were the obstacles that Nehemiah encountered when rebuilding the wall?

Nehemiah knew that he was in a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12; 1 John 2:15). He was aware of the schemes of Satan (2 Corinthians 2:11) and the tactics used to keep him and his fellow Jews from finishing the work that was almost complete.

- 2.1 Distraction. Nehemiah's enemies tried everything possible to distract his attention from the job he was trying to accomplish.
- 2.2 Fear. It is the opposite of faith. Satan knew that if he can get Nehemiah to take his eyes off of God, his spiritual walk with Him will be hindered (1 Peter 5:8).
- 2.3 Deception. If Satan cannot get us to fear, he will try to deceive us. We can all be used by God for His works; similarly, we can also be used by Satan to stop the works of God.
- 2.4 Persecution. Doing God's work invites ridicule and persecution (Nehemiah 4-6).
- 2.5 Destruction (Nehemiah 4:3).

Conclusion:

Thoroughness is a rare and beautiful experience of carrying a responsibility to its completion. We should not be satisfied with a half-hearted uncompleted job. We can accomplish so much when we align ourselves with the will and plan of God.

Reflection:

What is God asking you to do as a leader in the community, as a student in school, at work? Have you finished it or are you still doing it?

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