

Watchman Part 3

“17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." 18 I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.” (Nehemiah 2:17-18)

Nehemiah is one of the watchmen that God had raised up to fulfil His purpose in the life of His church and His people. Nehemiah had the vision to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem in order to protect the city from thieves and from strangers who might come in and bring destructions. He motivated and mobilized the people and brought them back to God, and with his vision and leadership equipped them and made each and every one of them participate as active worker and key personnel in fulfilling the purpose of God.

From the book of Nehemiah we can learn more about the life of a watchman.

1- The watchman beyond trouble and distress can see God’s vision and plan: “17 Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” (Nehemiah 2:17) The key word here that indicate the watchman is the word ‘see’ ***“You see the trouble we are in.”*** The watchman with the vision that God gives to him can bring the hope back to the people. The watchman work it out that disgrace would be lifted out from the life of the people.

2- The watchman can see what God had provided for him and how he can share that with the people to bring relief in their lives: “18 I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.” (Nehemiah 2:18) When God will guide then He will provide. Nehemiah showed the people what are the resources that are available in their hands and that they will be able to accomplish the purpose and do the task. And that helped the people to be motivated and responded to the call of God and made them replied ***“Let us start rebuilding.”***

3- The watchman is a man of discernment: The task was not an easy one but with the presence of the Lord the work was done inspite of all opposition and the persecution that the people of God faced from the enemies who were even infiltrated among their ranks. Nehemiah met the threat of the enemies, ***“13 Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.” (Nehemiah 4:13)*** Nehemiah *recognized and saw* the lower points which are the weak points on the wall and there he put guards to watch and protect. Being a watchman you should be a man of discernment who can see footholds and weak points and take measures to prevent the devil and the enemies from using to penetrate your lives. Even for your daily troubles or suffering there is still ways out and measures that can bring healing and remedy for your struggle.

4- The watchman can see the effectiveness of simple measures to deal with threats and correct problems: “14 And I looked , and rose up , and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible , and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.” (Nehemiah 4:14) The word look is indicative of the presence of the watchman whom here can see clearly that simple measures can have great impact and dramatic changes. Trust God with the small and the simple instruction that the word of God gives to you; discern that in obeying them there is relief and good result.

5- The watchman has a good leadership who chose faithful people to maintain and consolidate the ongoing correct system: “1 Now it came to pass, when the wall was built , and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed , 2 That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many. 3 And I said unto them, Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot; and while they stand by , let them shut the doors, and bar them: and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, every one in his watch, and every one to be over against his house.” (Nehemiah 7:1-3 KJV) Nehemiah appointed right people who are faithful and fear the Lord to keep and to maintain the system and the discipline to control the movements across the gates in order that no wrong people or dangers will come in and destroy the city. Faithful people should be searched for and appointed to carry on the work of God so the ministry will continue. Nehemiah gave them clear and precise instructions and needed of them to abide in them; they were well studied instructions for the benefit and wellbeing of everyone: ***A-*** Only at certain precise time of the day the gates should be opened and not before that time: ***“And I said unto them, Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun be hot; and while they stand by, let them shut the doors, and bar them:” (Nehemiah 7:3a KJV)*** Whatever instruction you receive from us that what you need o apply so that everyone will be protected. ***B-*** Nehemiah instructed them to work with and appoint people who are faithful to help to watch and work as alert in order to take early measure to combat the enemy work: ***“and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, every one in his watch, and every one to be over against his house.” (Nehemiah 7:3b KJV)*** The word that indicative of the watchman is the word ***appoint watches ... every one in his watch.*** From the statement ***“and appoint watches of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, every one in his watch, and every one to be over against his house.”*** We can conclude that the watchman ministry is linked in his house (your own family) and in Jerusalem (the church that God had placed you in). You can not be a watchman only for your family but neglecting the church and you can not be a watchman in the ministry of the church but neglecting your own family. Both should go together.

My dear and Beloved: The above scripture give us more details about the ministry of the watchman, therefore go through the message and study the above points to observe in your life as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that open my eyes to see deep things in the Scripture. Lord I commit my life into your hand, take me and make me a faithful and fruitful watchman for your glory, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.