

BIBLE DEVOTION

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7 IMPORTANT LIFE-LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

I am doing a great work,... (6:3a).....So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work. (4:6)

Tucked away in the Old Testament and named after its central character, the book of Nehemiah is a leadership manual for laymen. . It is an autobiography of a loyal cupbearer to the king of Persia who rose to be the governor of the people of Judah.

- ♦This book of Nehemiah is visionary - it is the mission of one ordinary person with an out-of-the-ordinary team of people to complete an extra-ordinary project.
- ♦This book of Nehemiah is valuable - it is the memoirs of an effective leader and his manuscript on dynamic leadership.
- ♦This book of Nehemiah is versatile - it is a manual on influence and impact for leaders in all walks of life. It speaks to and connects with the corporate world, the government bodies, the church life and the mission field.

As you follow Nehemiah's progress from his arrival to Jerusalem right thru to his anticipation of success, what stands out is his spirit and attitude towards the work and his skill and ability to coordinate the workers

He placed people in suitable positions. And speaking of people, he didn't see people as a product with a use by date, once expired they're crushed and thrown away. Not at all! He worked with them; he didn't use them for his own purpose, he served together with them.

Even though Nehemiah's spirit and attitude towards the work was exemplary and his skill and ability to coordinate the workers was excellent, yet that was not enough in itself to successfully complete the mission.

The other vital component that this project needed to make it a success, besides the final preparation of this dynamic leader was the faithful participation of the dedicated laity.

In other words, His skill in co-ordination+ Their support and co-operation = success

To put it another way, what's needed is a leader who is able, AS WELL AS, labourers who are available to carry the ball.

They began **when** they came together;

They progressed **as** they stayed together; *and*

They succeeded **because** they worked together.

Hand and hand and with one mind (except for the nobles - see 3:5) forty-two separate groups with thirty-eight different names laboured together.

And what amazing results!

*What was an impossible dream for 94 years
became a living reality in just 52 days!*

*What couldn't have been done in nearly a century
was completed successfully in less than eight weeks!*

Q - What actually made the difference?

A - The following **7** characteristics that they possessed so strongly made the difference!!

1. The attitude to trust

Then I told them of **the hand of my God which was good upon me ...**(2:18a)

Then ... I ... said unto them, **The God of heaven, he will prosper us....** (2:20)

2. The desire to build

And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, **that I may build it.** (2:5)

3. The will to arise

... And they said, **Let us rise up and build...** (2:18b)

... therefore we his servants **will arise** and build: (2:20b)

Then Eliashib the high priest **rose up** with his brethren the priests, and they built...(3:1a)

4. The mind to work

... for the people had a mind to work. (4:6b)

And it came to pass...that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work. (4:1)

So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing. (4:23)

5. The spirit to corporate

And **next unto them** repaired Melatiah ..., and **Next unto him** repaired Uzziel, ... **Next unto him** also repaired Hananiah ... And **next unto them** repaired Rephaiah And **next unto them** repaired Jedaiah And **next unto him** repaired Hattush (3:7-10)

6. The strength to persevere

So **they strengthened** their hands for this good work. (2:18b)
Yea, also I **continued in the work** of this wall, neither bought we any land:
....(5:16a)

7. The determination to finish

...when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that **we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work**. (4:15)

So we laboured...**from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared**. (4:21)

With the Love of Christ
Peter

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