



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Weekly Bible Study - 02:03:2011

Website: www.victoriouschristianministry.org;

Study 9: PRINCIPLES OF SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENT

Nehemiah 2:17-20

Man was made to achieve by the virtue of his creation and recreation. However, most natural human beings generally manifest the image of failure because of the:

1. negative tendencies the devil has put in him;
2. natural tendency of man to tread the path of ease, and
3. many negative forces militating against him.

Consequently many live and die as mediocres without fulfilling their full potentials. The Jews have arrived and established in Jerusalem. They saw the desolation of the place and had the potentials of rebuilding the wall but they did nothing until Nehemiah mobilized them. This underscores the first principle – ***man must be motivated so as to achieve***. Some want to control the world but do not know the forces that keep the world going (i.e. what makes people to act or react in a particular way). In most ventures such as establishing a company / business, leading organizations, heading a family, being a successful evangelist, etc, three obstacles – unwillingness, inertia and opposition – must be overcome before success can be achieved. They can be overcome through motivation, mobilization and mortification. ***It takes action to achieve excellence***. The third law of dynamics underscores the fact that things would get from bad to worse, order to disorder when left alone. It took Nehemiah action – deliberate positive action to motivate and mobilize the people as well as to mortify the reactions of the enemies.

1. MOTIVATION: Nehemiah 2:17, 18; Romans 8:31, 37

Though he got the approval of God and the support of the king for his mission, Nehemiah recognized the need for the co-operation of the people, who in response to the taunts of the enemies have developed negative, failure-oriented self image. With this self-image they could achieve no success. Nehemiah did not just command them imperiously but exhorted and excited them to join because he recognized that inner change is the first step to motivation. To achieve this, he spoke to them of their plight and enumerated the benefits they would derive by identifying with the course. He then traced the origin of his mission to God, and demonstrated it by highlighting the providence of God through the favour of the king, his forwardness in prospering his course and the provisions for the work. Encouraged by his testimony, the Jews decided resolutely to ***“rise up and build”*** knowing full well that what God has purposed to do, He can and will accomplish it (Romans 4:20,21). It is amazing what God can do through genuine inspiring testimony. This illustrates the fundamentals of motivation for successful evangelisation. When people are brought to the point they are willing to do joyfully what they normally would not wish to do then they are sufficiently motivated. We must however be motivated and maintain that motivation if we are to be able to motivate others. This requires constantly stirring up ourselves to rise above the challenges while focusing on the God who can never fail.

Your Spiritual Welfare Is Our Concern

2. MOBILISATION: Nehemiah 2:18b; 2 Timothy 1:6-8; 2 Peter 1:12,13; 3:1,2

It is one thing to arouse interest in people and another to initiate and sustain profitable action towards the achievement of a goal. To motivate without mobilization is to pave the way for frustration and to waste one's time and resources. In the next study, we shall discover how Nehemiah effectively mobilized the people for the work. Meanwhile, it is sufficient to note that the foundation of the mobilization was laid here. Nehemiah so motivated the people till they were not only ready for action by themselves but also challenged others to join in the action. They got to the point that ***"they said, let us arise and build"***. They stirred up themselves and one another and ***"strengthened their hands for this good work"***. Many are weak because they are cold, indifferent and unresolved. ***Resolution, determination (to act and continue in the action) as well as action in itself are the key ingredients to mobilization.***

3. MORTIFICATION: Nehemiah 2:19,20; Daniel 11:32; Psalm 112:10; Numbers 23:20,21,23

Every good cause has had its opposition but "the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits". Sanballat (Moabite) and Tobiah (Ammonite), both Samaritans, were grieved to see a man that sought the welfare of Israel. Commenting on this, Matthew Henry said, *"Nothing is greater vexation to the enemies of good people, who have misrepresented them to princes as turbulent, factious, and not fit to live, than to see them stand right in the opinion of their rulers, their innocence cleared and their reproach rolled away, and that they are thought not only fit to live, but fit to be trusted."* In their vain opposition they represented the course of the Jews as something silly and as a wicked rebellion against the king. Nehemiah recognized that the opposition had come because Sanballat and Tobiah had no right in Jerusalem. He quickly mortified the effect of the opposition on the people by reminding them that they are servants of the true God who will prosper their course because they are working for God. A life totally committed to God and his course cannot fail. . ***Many fail today despite the promises of God because they do not recognize and confront the opposition.***