



# VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

## Weekly Bible Study - 30:03:2011

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### Study 12: WILLINGNESS TO WORK

Nehemiah 4:6

Prayerfulness produced faith in divine ability to intervene, which in turn generated courage and strength for the builders to continue in the work despite opposition. The possibility of achieving their desired goals in answer to prayer inspired their confidence. Consequently, they willingly threw themselves into the work not minding personal plight or pertinent problems of the enemies. Prayer is an immense source of power that must find outlet in willingness to work, if it is to be effective. Willingness is the attribute that makes divine service not only very successful but also acceptable to God (2 Corinthians 8:12; 9:7,8). Throughout the ages, men that willingly served God, were marked by at least three basic characteristics:- They had VISION FROM HEAVEN; lived as VESSELS OF HONOUR and manifested VIBRANCY WITH HOPEFULNESS.

#### 1. VISION FROM HEAVEN:

Nehemiah 4:6;2:5; Hebrews 11:23-27; 13:7; 12:2,3; 2 Corinthians 4:16,17; Proverbs 29:18

To assume spiritual responsibility without a clear vision from heaven can be likened to taking a long journey in a vehicle without sufficient fuel. When the initial excitement and thrill wears off or problems arise, frustration sets in and the task becomes a bore, if not abandoned – just like a vehicle comes to a halt when the fuel is exhausted! Vision will supply the inspiration and power to keep going when all else suggests one should stop. It will provide the courage to surmount all obstacles. It was heavenly vision that made Nehemiah willing to abandon the glamour of the King's court for a humble assignment at Jerusalem among defeated and despised people. Inspired by his consecration and commitment, the Jews caught the same vision and abandoned their small ambitions for the work of their great God (Hebrews 13:7). Moses abandoned Egypt despite plausible prospects because he endured as "seeing Him who is invisible". Christ left heaven for earth and endured the cross "for the joy that was set before Him". It was "heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19) that empowered Paul to saturate the then known world with the gospel. Vision will supply what training, position, personality, power and possessions alone cannot. It will sustain the efforts and rekindle interest even when success is still far from sight. WHAT VISION DO YOU HAVE FROM GOD?

#### 2. VESSELS OF HONOUR:

Nehemiah 4:6; 2 Timothy 2:20,21; Matthew 13:7-9,22,23; Deuteronomy 8:3; Hosea 4:6; Galatians 5:17; John 17:17

Heavenly treasures can only retain their value and potency when stored in worthy vessels. Worldliness and carnality have done their worst in rendering many believers impotent and useless in the work of the Lord. When the heart is centered on materialism; when the hands are holding too tightly to the things of this life; and when secular considerations can hinder spiritual enrichment; then the willingness to work will ever be an illusion. Worldliness and godliness are mutually exclusive. Tender

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plants will always be choked by thorns. Jesus prayed for the sanctification of the disciples. ***“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work”***. It is only hearts that are truly set free from the love of money and materialism that can willingly, powerfully and persistently serve God. Nehemiah was a vessel of honour and therefore he could keep going when the going gets tough.

### **3. VIBRANCY WITH HOPEFULNESS:**

Nehemiah 4:6; 2:18; 1 Corinthians 9:19-27; Romans 12:15; 2 Corinthians 9:2  
Nehemiah had vivacious hope. He was enthusiastic and optimistic. Enthusiasm is contagious! The Jews similarly manifested a liveliness, vigour and energy that helped to challenge one another for the work. Christ manifested a vivaciousness that attracted sinners and made them comfortable enough in His presence to explore the truth. Paul was willing to become all things to all men so that he could save some – a demonstration of vitality in his approach. In the final analysis it is the ‘outlook’ that matters most. A positive outlook backed by God, generates the willingness to work. It is not bolstered by circumstances and human reactions. Rather it turns problems into prospects and makes them stepping-stones to higher grounds. Such attitudes challenge and encourage others in the Lord. **LET YOUR LIFE BE A CHALLENGE TO OTHERS.**

People that manifest this quality are characterised by:

1. Having a mindset for the work (Nehemiah 4:6)
2. Excitement (enthusiasm) for the work
3. Valuing the work and giving it high priority
4. Taking ownership of the work
5. Being inner motivated about the work
6. Being a self starter and pace setter in the work
7. Promptness, punctuality and perseverance in the work
8. Continuity in discharging the work till it is accomplished
9. Inspiring, motivating and mobilising others for the work
10. Doing the work rather than talking about it or about what they don’t do
11. Flexible and adaptable
12. Focused on the end goal