



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Weekly Bible Study - 04:12:2011

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Study 22: ACCOMPLISHING GRACE THROUGH PRAYER

Nehemiah 6:9,15

“For they all made us afraid, saying, their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands. So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days” (Nehemiah 6:9,15).

Accomplishing grace is divine enablement to excel and it is available to every believer through prayers. The demands of daily living require extraordinary grace to keep ones' head above the waters. The cares of life, coupled with pressures from work, responsibilities of the family and opposition of the devil may bring such considerable stress on life that physical strength alone cannot cope. George Duffield, a songwriter, captured this very well when he penned:

Stand in his strength alone
The arm of flesh will fail you
Ye dare not trust your own
Put on the Gospel Armour
And watching unto prayer

Successful men in time and history have attested to the sufficiency of prayer as a source of power, wisdom, and guidance. Nehemiah too, knew how to tap the resources of heaven for the task at hand. Every new day requires fresh grace for the execution of its task. ***And the kneeling Christian will find sufficient grace for triumphs and accomplishments in times of trouble*** (Hebrews 4:16).

1. THE NEED FOR GRACE

Nehemiah 6:9; Ezra 8:21-23; Jonah 1:6; Matthew 4:1,2; Mark 1:35; John 17:1-26; 1 Corinthians 16:9; Ephesians 1:15-23; 6:18-22; 1 Corinthians 7:5

Faced with the arduous task of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, amidst grumbling Jews and fierce opposition, Nehemiah recognised that nothing but the grace of God could see him through. Many in his shoe could have given up and escaped to the blues. Others could have been content to depend on the arm of flesh (education, wisdom, ability, connections, financial institutions, etc) but Nehemiah recognised that trying times are times to obtain help from above. Nehemiah's life was steeped in prayer. He could turn every problem into prayer point and obtain answers. Such a person holds the keys of the kingdom and can unlock the doors of grace when necessary. ***His prayers were often short – a solemn reminder that depth not length is the secret to answered prayer. When a man's character is above reproach, his holiness searching, and he is totally committed in plan, purpose and action to the total will of God, then a snap shot prayer from such can accomplish much more than the shedding of crocodile tears from a hypocrite. When prayer becomes a way of life then blessings flow without hindrance.***

Your Spiritual Welfare Is Our Concern

2. THE NATURE OF GRACE

Nehemiah 6:15; 2 Chronicles 20:21-22; 1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 27:13; 11 Corinthians 12:8-10; 4:7-10; 2:14

Grace has been defined as **G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense; or the unmerited favour of God towards mankind. It is the special enablement or empowerment of God for the accomplishment of that which would normally be impossible, humanly speaking. It cannot be acquired through learning or possessions. It gives strength in weakness, sustains hope in despair, generates courage in fear, and procures sustenance in poverty. It was grace that took Joshua and Caleb into the Promised Land. Grace helped Nehemiah to accomplish the building work in 52 days. Grace enabled Christ to accomplish his ministry in 3 years. It enabled Paul to finish his course with joy. Grace would make the recipient smile at the storms. Trials become triumphs, weariness watchfulness, impossible possible where grace is available in abundance. Grace lightens burdens and makes a long day appear short. The casual believer will never comprehend the meaning of **"... My yoke is easy, and my burden light..."** (Matthew 11:28-30); until s/he learns to take a daily dose of the grace of God. Like Paul and Silas in prison, grace makes the believer sing triumphant songs of victory through every night of sorrow until the glorious breakthrough comes (Acts 16:25-27):

1. Do you ever feel downhearted or discouraged?
Do you ever think your work is all in vain?
Do the burdens thrust upon you make you tremble,
And you fear that you shall ne'er the vict'ry gain?...

*Have faith in God,... The sun will shine
Tho' dark the cloud,... may be today...
His heart hath planned... your path and mine?...
Have faith in God,... Have faith always...*

2. Darkest night will always come before the dawning,
Silver linings shine on God's side of the cloud:
All your journey He has promised to be with you,
Naught has come to you but what His love allowed...
3. God is mighty He is able to deliver;
Faith can victor be in ev'ry trying hour;
Fear and care, and sin, and sorrow be defeated,
By our faith in God's almighty conquering pow'r...

Grace provides the strength and power to dig until water is struck. Unlike the story of the desert travellers who died of thirst because they only dug two feet without finding water; but those who discovered their corpse also discovered water after digging one foot more from where they stopped. Dig a little deeper for there are fountains of living water for every thirsty soul! There is truth in the song:

*I will dig a little deeper,
Jesus love must be sweeter,
As I dig a little deeper, deeper yet.*

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