

DESIRE IS THE SEED OF PURPOSE

Nehemiah is a father of a vision ... one who seeks for the well being of the children of Israel with a desire for reconnecting their generations. The first words of the book of Nehemiah give his credentials – he is the son of a father and therefore in proper order to be a father of a vision.

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down and its gates are burned with fire."

Nehemiah asks his brother a specific question about the Jews and Jerusalem. Hanani tells him that the Jews are in great distress and reproach – having no hope of the situation getting better because the walls are broken down and the gates are burned. He later confirms their testimony as God putting a Word in his heart to accomplish – since he believed it was the Word of God, it became operative and powerful in his life.

Nehemiah heard about the condition of Jerusalem. Many heard the same thing but when he hears the situation, the Voice of the Spirit awakens desire in him and he is moved to pray. *So it was, when I heard these words that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.* He cannot eat or sleep because he is grieved that the broken down walls make his family so vulnerable to the enemy. Listening for the key that unlocks your desire – the strategic word that moves you to pray, will enable you likewise to discover your purpose.

Desire should move you to pray because genuine concern expresses itself in prayer. Jesus was moved with compassion ... He had a desire to see God's will accomplished in the lives of others. If you are moved with compassion, you also are moved with a desire to do something about their situation – having a desire or a passion to see God's will done. This is where prayer is crucial. Prayer reveals the plan and the timing of God, which unveils your purpose in fulfilling His will.

"I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If

you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations; but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.”

The prayer of Nehemiah speaks not only of the nation’s disobedience but also reminds God of His faithfulness if they return to Him. He sees their situation and the possibility of resolution in the Word of God. Nehemiah recognizes God’s will to intervene because he has connected the prophetic promise to his time and situation. He knew in his heart that this is what God was referring to when He spoke to Moses.

In the Book of Ezra, God compels King Cyrus of Persia to restore the Jews to their homeland and build them a temple. Nehemiah sees the hand of God and is convinced that this is of Divine Providence – never has a king sent his free labor force home, especially after 70 years of captivity! Something is about to happen and he wants to be part of it. He recognized the time is at hand and prepared to be part of the divine intervention. He heard the Voice of the Spirit and discovered his function – his destiny.

Every great move of God starts as a seed planted. Hanani planted the seed in Nehemiah. It could not have been planted if his heart did not desire to receive it. Actually, his question to Hanani reveals his desire. He had a desire to hear about the Jews and Jerusalem – the condition of God’s people. The Spirit moves him to pray in a desire to connect to the will of God. Likewise, if you desire to hear what the condition of the Church is and connect to His will then you will hear the Voice of the Spirit giving you a plan and a vision. Whatever moves you to pray is usually closely connected to your purpose, your portion of the work ... your godly vision.

Nehemiah prays and his desire reveals the wisdom of God. As he prays, he is speaking the Word of the Lord that defines their current condition and also an answer of wisdom – a plan to correct the situation. Nehemiah is agreeing with God that the condition of Israel is such because of their unfaithfulness – which is why they were scattered ... but if they return to God in repentance then God will surely raise up the walls to protect His people! It is His promise: *Those from among you shall build the old waste places, you shall raise up the foundations of many generations!*

The spirit man awakens at the sound of the Voice of God in the earth. You have the ability to be sensitive to spiritual things because the Spirit of God dwells within you. If you are awakened and aware of what is happening – you will also know what you should do. This is identity and purpose stirring you to accomplish God’s will in the earth.

Desire enhances what you hear and see. What you comprehend in the Spirit will be according to your ability and gifting – what you know and are trained in. In other words, you see what is happening or what must be done according to what your desire is. Your purpose from God lets you hear or see something that no one else can hear in a message because God connects His will to your ability, which gives you purpose. God does not tell everyone the same thing – just the one He wants to use. God gives you the desire to fulfill a portion of His will in an unction that motivates you. Desire is the seed of your purpose.

Each of you has a specific function in the Body of Christ. If He reveals His will it is because He is preparing you to accomplish it. God is perfecting and fashioning you to fulfill His distinct

purpose – which makes you vital to the collective Body of Christ! Therefore, you are not trying to hear every voice. You want to hear what the Spirit is specifically speaking to you. His Voice will speak into who you are and what your purpose is – identity and purpose.

You need to be moved by the Spirit. If you hear Him speak, your spirit man awakens with desire. God speaks to your heart and challenges you to fulfill His purpose. If your heart's desire is God's will, then your prayers are empowered, as Nehemiah's were to speak His plan – unveiling the wisdom of God.

The scripture says that if anyone needs a plan or a purpose – wisdom, he should desire it. *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.* Nehemiah has confidence that he has godly wisdom because God answered his desire with a distinct plan!

God has already decided your purpose. You are called according to His will. Your ministry is His determined purpose, desire and pleasure He designed specifically for you in Him. You do not decide who you are, but rather you find out who you are. It is not your option to decide what you want to be – it is predetermined and written in the heavens for you to discover for yourself on earth. But He does confirm your purpose to you so that you truly know in your heart that it is God's will. Paul is an apostle by the will of God or the determined purpose of God. Paul did not decide who he was – God determined it for him. Jeremiah was called to be a prophet from his mother's womb. He did not decide if he should or should not be a prophet – God had already determined it for him. If you agree with God then walk in what He shows you to do.

From the divine moment and conception of desire until he speaks to the King is four months. Obviously, this was not an emotional reaction, a whim or a feeling but a move of the Spirit upon his heart that has grown into a purpose that consumes his thoughts. Nehemiah is homesick with desire. His soul is breaking with a longing for the will of God to be accomplished but waits for God to make the next move – and recognizes His hand when He does. He did not go to Hanani to make plans but he waits for the right moment to speak to the king. When the time came, Nehemiah was dreadfully afraid because he knew that a divine connection had been made and God's will was about to manifest in the earth as he had prayed. *O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.*

During World War II there were coded messages sent over the airwaves to the French underground to signify that the D-Day invasion had begun. The joy that the French Resistance experienced when they received their coded message was not because the war was over but rather that the victory had begun! They had a job to do ... a purpose to fulfill ... and recognized that their moment had come to accomplish their destiny.

When King Artaxerses asks Nehemiah the question of his desire – he knew it was the moment to begin. It was God's coded message to him that the time had come. At the divine moment – the ordained time, Nehemiah speaks to the king of the desire to rebuild the walls. He had already received a coded message in the scriptural promise of Jeremiah and of Isaiah to build the old waste places and raise the foundations of many generations. He had God's plan for restoring the breaches and he desired to be sent – he could taste victory! This divine moment is the culmination of faith, the substance of things hoped for ... and the birth of purpose. Nehemiah's time has come to fulfill his destiny.

Nehemiah *viewed* the walls around Jerusalem, and experiences the same consciousness of God's hand about to be revealed. This man is not looking at the walls as a problem but rather he is expectantly seeing a finished work – the substance of things hoped for! The word view in the Hebrew is to hope and expect. He saw what he had groaned for in his spirit all these months; he is seeing the divine opportunity of a finished work.

A father of a vision not only has the ability and gifting to ‘view’ the walls but also has the wisdom to know what to do to accomplish the mission. He forges a new path in pioneering a vision that fulfills his destiny. The wicked one tries to convince him that this is hopeless but fails because a true father is already viewing the work in the spiritual realm of God’s purpose.

Opposition casts doubt on the identity and purpose of sons. Those who are not of the vision will always criticize, point out problems, complain – even say it is not according to the Word or the right thing to do, but the best answer is what Nehemiah speaks to the children of Israel. He tells them this is none of the opposition’s concern since it is exclusively for sons who have an inheritance in Jerusalem. *The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem.* It is only for sons of the House of God.

The gaps in the walls are being restored while the opposition persistently speaks doubtful things behind their backs to stop the mighty work of God. In fact, the opposition is very angry, jealous and indignant – they are behaving rudely and the proud are mocking them. Some of the Israelites come to Nehemiah and tell him that it is really difficult to build with all this *rubbish*. Nehemiah tells the Israelites how to fight against the enemy or the rubbish – they need to imprint the awesome and great God on their minds and remember their responsibility to their families. Nehemiah testifies of what God and the king say since they alone have authority and power to rule over the children of Israel – not the opposition. *And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king’s words that he had spoken to me. So they said, ‘Let us rise up and build.’ Then they set their hands to this good work.*

The remnant strengthened their hands because they willed to do the work, yet they could only do so much. *So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.* The sons had started the work because they were moved in their hearts to do so, but it is not until Nehemiah tells them to be of the same mind as God that they are able to finish the wall. When they came in order in mind and heart by understanding the vision, God did a quick work through them and they finished the wall in record time.

The opposition casts doubt on ‘if’ what you are doing is really right ... but the simple alternative is to imprint God’s Word on your minds. God is great and awesome! God performs His Word by an act of Divine Providence – bringing victory! Through His divine intervention in your life you are strengthened and prosperous in fulfilling His will. Like the children of Israel you become courageous against the enemy and never quit!

Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us. Nehemiah recognizes that there is always a potential for danger so he tells the leadership that he will blow the trumpet and if they hear it, rally to him at that point of contention ... that place of opposition against the truth. A trumpet signifies a voice being spoken. If you cannot hear God in your ministry father, then you will certainly have difficulty hearing the call of the trumpet in the Spirit. If you want to come into proper order then you listen to obey.

The opposition spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish - stones that are burned?" Only God can revive stones into living stones or fleshly hearts.

His promise: Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God. He is gathering together the outcasts of Israel, the broken, the wounded, the discarded and afflicted to be joined together in Him. The world may call it rubbish but out of these heaps and piles of ruins God is restoring a wall, a Body of believers – the New Jerusalem!

Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. They gathered together as one man to hear and obey the Word of the Lord. Even though the walls were restored in the natural land of Israel, the Ark of the Covenant did not return to dwell in the temple. The system was reestablished yet God did not return to the temple because the temple He dwells in is your hearts – with the promise still remaining of gathering together as one man to rise up as the Body of Christ!

A spiritual pattern is developing. First, the father's heart must be tender to hear the Voice of the Spirit. It is the Voice of the Spirit that awakens desire. Desire is essential because it is the seed of purpose. If desire has been awakened, you have the motivation and power to fulfill the Word the Spirit quickened in you. If the Voice of the Spirit awakens desire in you then desire will move you to pray. Prayer reveals the depth of your desire and is the catalyst that connects you to God's purpose.

Many do not have a purpose or a vision for their lives because they fail to take the Voice of the Spirit seriously – that God speaks with purpose and not with idle words. Everything God speaks will come to pass – if not through you, then through someone who desires to be conformed to His will.

God connects a word in your hearts and it touches your emotion, your desire. Some express this connection with tears, others with a shout of acclamation ...but only a few are so profoundly touched with purpose that they are moved with passion to seek God's solution. It is not just a sad story to weep over or a joyous Amen – it has become a godly desire for the welfare of the children of God! A restoration of generations!

And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.

For those fathers whose heart are turned towards their sons in prayerful concern – who have a determination to see the will of God manifest gloriously in the earth, God reveals a plan. As a result of their quest for spiritual illumination, these fathers have a purpose to walk in ... a vision that ultimately fulfills their destiny in Him.

God has a remnant in every generation even througho ut the 400 silent years. When the silence was broken, on the threshold of a new millennium stood a faithful remnant. You likewise stand on the threshold of the Great Day of God but something changed in the transition. On that dawn of a new millennium two thousand years ago, *the Word became flesh and dwelt among us* but at this juncture of a new day ... is it possible that Christ will again rise collectively as one Body of many believers?

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