

Perseverance

Nehemiah 4

1. Corporate Prayer: Devoted & Dependent on God Vs. 1-6

The Sanballat, a regional governor, was surprised by the great number of people committed to the rebuilding the walls. Although his intense displeasure was shared with his allies and was shared to Nehemiah and those faithful to God in hopes to undermine their confidence, God's people were empowered to persevere because of corporate prayer to their God who is sovereign over all of humanity.

Our perseverance for God's plan can be weakened when we face difficult life circumstances. However, when we are united in being devoted and dependent on our God through praying corporately, our focus on God's sovereignty will strengthen our confidence.

2. Continual Prayer: Committed To God's Plan Vs. 7-9

Although Sanballat and his allies anger led to uniting together in making plans to stop Jews from completing the project, Nehemiah and the rest of God's people continued in prayer and displayed their trust in God by continuing to build the walls and prepared themselves for any threat that may come their way.

As tough times increase, our prayerful dependence on God increases, as only through placing our trust in God can we persevere and continue taking actions of faith within God's plan.

3. Confessing God's Truth: Gathered in Unity Vs. 10-23

As God's people's perseverance began to become frail, Nehemiah reminded them of God's never-failing truth, which empowered them to continue to persevere with the plans of God.

Our perseverance has the potential of becoming frail, but when we share with one another God's never-failing truth, and choose to lean on those promises, we will be empowered to continue living within God's will.

Questions:

- How do you respond to opposition? Do you get distracted, challenged to work harder, give up, get frustrated, complain, seek new solutions, trust God more, etc...
- What has God provided for us so we can persevere and not give up on living for God's will?

- What has helped sustain your prayer relationship with God?
- The devil wants to stop us from doing God's work. What obstacles are you facing against serving God? Are you facing obstacles at work? At home? In your family? In your ministry? How do we stand firm and continue doing the work God has prepared for us (Ephesians 2:10)?
- Sharing God's Truth is so very important. When you remember the Lord, how has God been great and awesome in your life?