

Prayer

Part 6

^{4d} *When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it--though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates--* ² *Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono." But they were scheming to harm me;* ³ *so I sent messengers to them with this reply: "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?"* ⁴ *Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer.* ⁵ *Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter* ⁶ *in which was written: "It is reported among the nations--and Geshem says it is true--that you and the Jews are plotting to revolt, and therefore you are building the wall. Moreover, according to these reports you are about to become their king* ⁷ *and have even appointed prophets to make this proclamation about you in Jerusalem: "There is a king in Judah!" Now this report will get back to the king; so come, let us confer together."* ⁸ *I sent him this reply: "Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just making it up out of your head."* ⁹ *They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed." [But I prayed,] "Now strengthen my hands." (Nehemiah 6:1-9)*

Nehemiah was engaged to do the great work of God in rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem to protect the people of God and separate them from the evil doers who were trying to invade their lives and destroy them. When their enemies heard what Nehemiah was doing they were trying to stop him by making a slur against him and intimidate him with threats of accusations. That was a cause of discouragement in his life and in the lives of the people of God in Jerusalem. And because this discouragement they got a weak feeling as if they were physically tired. So Nehemiah overcomes that through prayer to the Lord as he prayed, **"Now strengthen my hands."** God answered his prayer and Nehemiah was strengthened and was able to finish the work of God and the task that was entrusted to Him.

Sometime when you respond to God's call and is willing to make a wall to separate yourself from the world and its practices the Devil will not be happy to find you doing that. So he may use people around you to threaten you and try to intimidate you and accuse you in order to stop you. Even bad news from friends, TV or from the net, Devil may use to penetrate your life to discourage you and gives you pain and anxiety in order to stop you.

Be careful then of the schemes of Devil who is trying to penetrate your life and destabilize you and discourage you and try to stop you to do God's will. Avoid the above resources that Devil may use to enter your life. Be clear minded with God and pray to the Lord to strengthen you so that you will be able to complete the task entrusted to you.

³⁵ *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.* ³⁶ *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.* ³⁷ *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."* ³⁸ *Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:35-38)*

Jesus with a compassionate heart as He was moving around through the towns and villages and teaching in their places of worship the word of God, and preaching to them the good news of the Kingdom, and healing those who are sick from their diseases, He was seeing and noticing the crowds who does not know God. Jesus had compassion on them because they were harassed due to the effects of sin and the destructive work of Devil in their lives. The people were helpless because they were not receiving their needs. They don't know where to go because no one was telling them the direction and how to get into the right way.

They were **like sheep without a shepherd**; The sheep needs from their shepherd the direction where to go, the right pasture and the correct food to eat. The people whom Jesus saw they needed someone to teach them and to direct them with God's word. Jesus was seeing them, teaching some of them but the rest whom Jesus is not teaching they still need workers to be send by God to reach them with God's word. That is why the Lord declared **"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."** Much people were around Jesus and beyond His capacity to reach them. At that time Jesus although He is God, He is also a man with certain capacity and He need others to help Him to reach the lost. Jesus was expressing the needs for workers to do God's work in reaching the crowd and teaching them the word of God and the way to live.

There was a need for people to be raised by the Lord to do that. That is why the Lord said, **"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."** This what Jesus prayed and what He suggested to us to pray, is still valid to this day. Jesus prayed that prayer and the Lord answered Him and that is what we read just after that, **"He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness." (Matthew 10"1)** His prayer was answered by God and He was mobilized to call His disciples and gave them authority to do the work of God as He was doing in front of them.

The prayer of Jesus is still working and God is answering that by continuously sending workers to the harvest field. And the prayer of Jesus is the prayer that the church is praying till this day, and we will continue to pray this prayer of Jesus, **"Send out workers to the harvest field,"** till the Lord will come and take us to heaven,

And as we pray this prayer God will send out workers from among us to the harvest field and God will use His church to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord will raise up more workers from our disciples and He will fill them with the Holy Spirit and will equip them with the Spiritual gifts to do the work of God and reach the lost in accord to the great commission of the Lord, **"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** ²⁰ **and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)**

My Dear and Beloved: Set your mind and thoughts with God and pray according to God's word and ask Him to strengthen you and help you to finish His work and to raise up workers to help you in doing that. **My Prayer:** *Father God I come to you in Jesus name, Lord cleanse my mind from worries and anxiety, separate me from the source of fear and bad news, strengthen my hands to finish the work of yours, and send people with me to help in doing that, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*