

**“Keeping IN STEP With God” – Part 6**  
**“Walking In the POWER of Confidence In God”**

**I. HOW TO RECEIVE SOMETHING MORE**

- **Nehemiah 2:1-4a (NLT)** *“Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes’ reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence. <sup>2</sup> So the king asked me, “Why are you looking so sad? You don’t look sick to me. You must be deeply troubled.” Then I was terrified, <sup>3</sup> but I replied, “Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire.” <sup>4</sup> The king asked, “Well, how can I help you?...”*
- **Nehemiah 2:20a (NLT)** *“I replied, “The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding this wall ...”*
- A. Nehemiah expected a very **POSITIVE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME!** He expected “something more” from God!
- B. **Nehemiah Ch. 2** describes **three primary enemies** each of us must face and **OVERCOME** in order to experience **confidence**.
  1. **PERSONAL INSECURITY.**
  2. **PESKY CIRCUMSTANCES.**
  3. **PESSIMISTS AND COMPLAINERS.**
- C. An **UNSHAKABLE CONFIDENCE** is the primary requirement for receiving “SOMETHING MORE” from God!
  - **Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)** *“Now FAITH is the **CONFIDENCE** that what we HOPE FOR and ASSURANCE about what we do not see.*
  - **Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)** *“And it is **IMPOSSIBLE** to **PLEASE** God WITHOUT FAITH... Anyone who wants to come to him must **believe** that God exists and that he **rewards** those who sincerely **seek him**.”*
  - **Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)** *“Now FAITH is the **substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**”*

**II. BUILDING AN UNSHAKEABLE CONFIDENCE IN GOD**

- A. Shake your **personal insecurity** by placing **REVERENCE** for God before **FEAR** of man.
  1. Before you talk to yourself or anyone else, talk to **GOD** first.
  2. Nehemiah knew that he didn’t just work for **the king** – he worked for the **King of KINGS!** His ultimate dependence was upon **GOD**, not **MAN**
- **Proverbs 29:25 (NLT)** *“Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety.”*
- B. Spurn **pesky circumstances** by **PREPARING** for the **BLESSINGS** God will send.
  1. Here’s the **KEY**. Nehemiah had been doing **MORE** than **PRAYING**, for **FOUR** months – he had been **PLANNING**.
- **Nehemiah 2:1 (NLT)** *“Early the following spring, in the month of Nisan, during the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes’ reign, I was serving the king his wine. I had never before appeared sad in his presence”*
- **Nehemiah 1:1 (NLT)** *“These are the memoirs of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes’ reign, I was at the fortress of Susa...”*
- **Nehemiah 2:4-9 (NLT)** *“The king asked, “Well, how can I help you?” With a prayer to the God of heaven, <sup>5</sup> I replied, “If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried.” <sup>6</sup> The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, “How long will you be gone? When will you return?” After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request. <sup>7</sup> I also said to the king, “If it please the king, let me have letters addressed to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, instructing them to let me travel safely through their territories on my way to Judah. <sup>8</sup> And please give me a letter addressed to Asaph, the manager of the king’s forest, instructing him to give me timber. I will need it to make beams for the gates of the Temple fortress, for the city walls, and for a house for myself.” And the king granted these requests, because the gracious hand of God was on me. <sup>9</sup> When I came to the governors of the province west of the Euphrates River, I delivered the king’s letters to them. The king, I should add, had sent along army officers and horsemen to protect me.”*

2. **Waiting** on God is **Biblical** but so is **ORGANIZATION** and **PREPARATION**.

- **Matthew 7:7-8 (NLT)** *“**Keep on asking**, and you will receive what you ask for. **Keep on seeking**, and you will find. **Keep on knocking**, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.*
- **Matthew 7:9-11 (NCV)** *“If your children ask for bread, which of you would give them a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if your children ask for a fish, would you give them a snake? <sup>11</sup> Even though you are bad, you know how to give good gifts to your children. **How much more your heavenly Father will give good things to those who ask him!**”*
- **Ephesians 3:20 (NCV)** ***With God’s power working in us**, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.”*

C. We have to effectively deal with the **COMPLAINERS** and the **PESSIMISTS**.

- **Nehemiah 2:16-20 (NLT)** *“The city officials did not know I had been out there or what I was doing, for I had not yet said anything to anyone about my plans. I had not yet spoken to the Jewish leaders—the priests, the nobles, the officials, or anyone else in the administration. <sup>17</sup> But now I said to them, “You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!” <sup>18</sup> Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king. They replied at once, “Yes, let’s rebuild the wall!” So they began the good work. <sup>19</sup> **But when Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab heard of our plan, they scoffed contemptuously.** “What are you doing? Are you rebelling against the king?” they asked. <sup>20</sup> I replied, “The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding this wall. But you have no share, legal right, or historic claim in Jerusalem.”*

1. Nehemiah DIDN’T let the armchair quarterbacks **SIDELINE** him!
2. Sidestep the critics by **FOCUSING** on “SOMETHING **MORE**.”
3. Nehemiah simply didn’t **WASTE** much **TIME** on his critics.
4. He was **CONFIDENT** that the **PROJECT** would be **COMPLETED** whether the **killjoys** liked it or not.

5. **SUCCESSFUL** people do **NOT** let **GARBAGE TRUCKS** TAKE OVER their LIVES.

6. You can **ALWAYS** expect **OPPOSITION** and **NEGATIVITY** when you TRY to do “SOMETHING MORE.” The **KEY** is to **RECOGNIZE IT** for **what it is** and **NOT** let it **STOP** you!