"WHAT'S IT TAKE TO WIN?"

NEHEMIAH – PT. 6

Keith Boyer, Lead Pastor

NEH. 6:1-4 (NIV) 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-- 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; 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?" Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer.

WHAT'S IT TAKE TO WIN?

1) A CLEAR _____

EPH. 2:10 (NLT) For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

HEB. 12:1a (LB) …let us run with perseverance the particular race that God has set before us.

2) A CONSISTENT _____

NEH. 6:9 (NCV) Our enemies were trying to scare us, thinking, "They will get too weak to work. Then the wall will not be finished." But I prayed, "God, make me strong."

LUKE 18:1 (NIV) Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

3) A COURAGEOUS _____

NEH 6:11a (NLT) "Should someone in my position run away from danger?"

GAL 6:9 (NLT) So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.

HEB 10:35-36 (NIV) So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.

KEEP WORKING IN SPITE OF…

✓ _____

NEH. 6:2-3 (TEV) So Sanballat and Geshem sent me a message, suggesting that I meet with them in one of the villages in the Plain of Ono. This was a trick of theirs to try to harm me. I sent messengers to say to them, "I am doing important work and can't go down there. I am not going to let the work stop just to go and see you."

✓ _____

NEH. 6:5-6, 13 (TEV/NLT) Then Sanballat sent one of his servants to me with a fifth message, this one in the form of an unsealed letter. It read:"Geshem tells me that a rumor is going around among the neighboring peoples that you and the Jewish people intend to revolt and that this is why you are rebuilding the wall. He also says you plan to make yourself king…" They were hoping to intimidate me and make me sin. Then they would be able to accuse and discredit me.

✓ _____

NEH. 6:10-13 (NLT) Later I went to visit Shemaiah … who was confined to his home. He said, "Let us meet together inside the Temple of God and bolt the doors shut. Your enemies are coming to kill you tonight." But I replied, "Should someone in my position run from danger? Should someone in my position enter the Temple to save his life? No, I won't do it!"

NEH. 6:16 (NIV) When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

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Digging Deeper: Small Group Questions …

- Share about an experience you had where you were distracted and wanted to quit but didn't. What kept you going?
- Do you have a clear sense of what your purpose in life is? How are you doing at discovering it and/or living it out?
- What is your reflex response in the midst of pain/pressure?
- How can you/I develop a more consistent prayer life?
- In what area of your life do you need God to turn things around?