I am Doing a Great Work and Cannot Come Down

Nehemiah 6:3 KJV

The story of Nehemiah is a story of a man who put it all on the line for what he believed in. It is the story of a man who stepped into an uncertain quest to restore life and hope to his community. When we read the story of Nehemiah going to the king and requesting permission to return to Jerusalem, we learn that even the request demanded courage. This is a story of faith and courage. It is a story of a man who understood his city was in ruins and needed someone to step up. This is a story of a man who heard the call of God and embraced it as his own. The call was rebuilding Jerusalem. It was a spiritual burden that God had placed upon his heart to return to unify and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah is not just a story of overcoming adversity. It is a story of unification and rebuilding. It is a story of how people made up their minds to do something. It is a story of how people came together and overcame the oppression of the prevailing social order and rebuilt their city and their lives.

This story is the story of the Black community. This is the same spirit the Black community has displayed throughout the years of living in this country. The Black community has faced overwhelming odds, and we did not succumb to the pressures that sought to tear us down. This spirit of rebuilding, standing tall in the face of opposition, and confronting the obstacles that oppose us as a people has been handed from one generation to the next. When we feel too weak to stand, remember how far, with God's help, we have come. Remember how little we had to work with and how God blessed us with the power to overcome. Remember those moments when we believed it could not be done? Then, remember the strength and courage God gave each of us to press forward and get it done.

Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem is merely a symbol for rebuilding our communities and our lives. There are lessons to be learned from this story. The first lesson is the importance of unity in the face of adversity. When the enemies learned the people's desire to rebuild the wall. The Jews faced constant threats and intimidation from their oppressors. Threats from those who did not want to see them advance. Despite these threats, they stood together, each contributing to rebuilding.

This lesson speaks to our history. We have faced pressure from those who sought to oppose us in every way they could. But like Nehemiah and his fellow Jews, we stood together. We have had a history of standing together. We stood together during the Civil Rights Movement. We stood together in the fight against Jim Crow. We must stand together in this period of uncertainty. We must do what we can to unite our communities as we move toward this nation's uncertain future.

The second lesson is our ability to adapt and bounce back. In every moment when all seemed hopeless, by the grace and strength of God, we did not lose hope. We rose from the ashes and created something better. We continued to work. There may have only been a few in the beginning. But our numbers grew. It grew into something that was able to make a difference in people's lives.

Yes, we have had countless confrontations we thought were setbacks. That was only God's way of preparing us for the future. Those setbacks were moments God used to prepare us for something better. In those moments, we never gave up. In those moments of challenge, we never quit.

To truly understand the story of Nehemiah, we must realize there were those who did not want them to rebuild the wall. There were those who did not believe it could be done. The Jews were ridiculed and attacked, but they did not stop. Remember, there will always be those who do not think it can be done. There will always be those who will tell you that you cannot do it. When the naysayers show up, this is the time to persevere. This is the time to have and maintain a unified front.

The importance of this story goes beyond our resilience. It is about faith in the face of struggle. Faith in the face of adversity. Faith when the light of hope begins to flicker. Faith in the reason God placed you here. Faith and trust that God did not put you in this situation to fail. Faith to know that God will supply whatever and whoever you need to reach the goal He has set for your life.

Unity is a powerful weapon against the forces of systemic oppression. Like the Jews of Nehemiah's time, we can stand together in the face of adversity. We can support each other, we can lift each other up, and we can work together to achieve God's goal.

What the people of God must remember:

Our unity is our shield; it protects us from the blows of oppression. Our unity is our sword, cutting through the barriers that seek to divide us. Unity is our spear, piercing the heart of injustice and inequality. It is because God has given us the strength to come together and the ability to be resilient, firm, and persevering that we can march into battle with the confidence that God has equipped us with what we need to achieve His Goals.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool