

PThen I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen.

10But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.—Nehemiah 2:9-10 ESV

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Takeaway for Today: The doors of opportunity always swing on the hinges of opposition.

'Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God... 12Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you... 18Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

—1 Peter 4;1-2, 12, 16 ESV

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days. ¹²Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. ¹³I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire.

14Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass. 15Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. 16And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work.

-Nehemiah 2:11-16 ESV

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Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision."

—Nehemiah 2:17 ESV

"Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell; I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell." —C.T. Studd

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Takeaway for Today: The doors of opportunity always swing on the hinges of opposition.

Observations From Overcomers:

Private Preparation

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And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem.

—Nehemiah 2:12 ESV

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

—Proverbs 4:23 ESV

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In 2011... • 201 following Christ in baptism • 500 volunteering in service and outreach projects • Additional worship service on Sunday to reach those we are currently not reaching • Break the \$5,000 mark in budget giving

Observations From Overcomers:

Proper Perspective

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Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. —Nehemiah 2:12 ESV

Observations From Overcomers:

Positive Partnership

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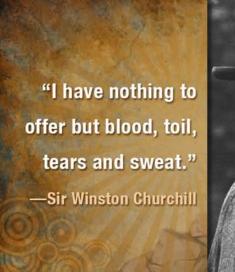
Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem."

-Nehemiah 2:20 ESV

Observations From Overcomers:

Passionate Perseverance

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"We will have no truce or parley with you, or the grisly gang who work your wicked will. You do your worst—and we will do our best."



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And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

—2 Corinthians 9:8 ESV

"Too long have we been waiting for one another to begin! The time for waiting is past! The hour of God has struck! War is declared! In God's holy name let us arise and build! The God of Heaven, He will fight for us, as we for Him. We will not build on the sand, but on the bedrock of the sayings of Christ, and the gates and minions of hell shall not prevail against us."

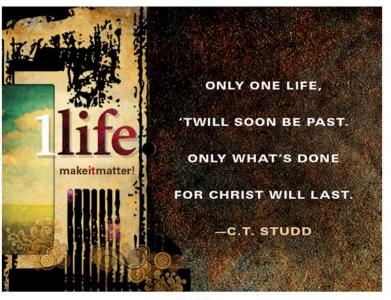
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"Should such men as we fear? Before the whole world, aye, before the sleepy, lukewarm, faithless, namby-pamby Christian world, we will dare to trust our God; we will venture our all for Him; we will live, and we will die for Him, and we will do it with His joy unspeakable singing aloud in our hearts. We will a thousand times sooner die trusting only in our God, than live trusting in man."

"And when we come to this position, the battle is already won, and the end of the glorious campaign in sight. We will have the real holiness of God, not the sickly stuff of talk and dainty words and pretty thoughts; we will have a 'Masculine Holiness,' one of daring faith and works for Jesus Christ."

-C.T. Studd

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