



“Dealing with Addiction”

Nehemiah 2: 19 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.

Recapitulations:

1. Principle 1 - **Sadness**: Recovery starts always with brokenness
2. Principle 2 - **Confession**: We must acknowledge our wrongdoings “if we confess sins...)
3. Principle 3 - **Repentance**: Be willing to surrender all to God by turning away from sins
4. Principle 4 - **Supplication** : Acknowledging that the source of success is God
5. Principle 5 - **Honesty**: being honest to our failure is a vital step toward restoration
6. Principle 6 - **Support**: Relying on great resources for accountability and protection
7. Principle 7 - **Determination**: all grounds are the right places to start restoration and today I will speaking on:
8. **Principle 8 - Expect adversity (trouble, difficulty, affliction) and depend on God's promises**

The Gifts of Adversity are those things that seem like detours, but which turn out to be tiny re-adjustments that help guide us to our destination.

A. Expect adversity and stand firm on God's promises

“But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heart about it, they mocked and ridiculed us”

No one should be ignorant concerning the enemy's schemes. The recovery addict must expect adversity one very side-in more than one way. **Anytime a person tries to honour God's will, that person must anticipate trouble.**

Jesus warned us of this fact in ***John 16:33*** - *I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. **Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.***

And the lives of the patriarchs and disciples gave testimony to it - ***Hebrews 11: 36-38*** - *Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were put to death by stoning;[a] they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— 38 the world was not*

worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

Those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good (1Peter 4:19).

- Jesus does not abandon us to our struggles either.
- If we remember that the ultimate victory has already been won, we can claim the peace of Christ in the most troublesome times.
- **The meaning of the name of "Sanballat" is "enemy in secret"**
- **The meaning of the name of "Tobiah" is the "Goodness of God"**
- **Geshem means "rain" - demonic attack moisture condensed from the atmosphere that falls visibly in separate drops**
- These three people came with intention to mock and make Nehemiah to look ridicule
- There people who were mocked and ridiculed by friends or the community
- **Job:** We read in the book of Job that he was accused by his friends as a man who had done wrong, and was thus punished for his sin. However, God knew what really happened, and in the end vindicated Job himself.
- **Jesus Christ:** Of course, there's no one more ridiculed by men than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. We all know that He came to His own, yet His own did not receive Him (see John 1:11). He was hounded by ridicule, accusations, and false adoration throughout His earthly life, and died a criminal's humiliating death although He was innocent. Yet, because of His obedience to the Father's will, He was given the greatest honour ever
 - **Your integrity will be attacked**
 - **Your faithfulness to God will be tested**
 - **Your giving habit to God will be tested**
 - Your faith will be tested
 - **Your beliefs system will be tested**
 - **Anything that seems to be "right" will be tested; but stand firm on God's promises**

B. Stand firm on God's promises

Nehemiah 2: 20 - 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."

Nehemiah did not draw back (jump back) at the first signs of adversity. He fought the attacks with truth and protected his heart from growing faint by demonstrating faith. **We are told to use faith as shield and word of God as sword (Ephesians 6).**

- When recovering, the addict will always experience spiritual warfare and this is the time to remember God's truth and stand firm in faith.
- **Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11).**
- The addict should be sure of God's promise to restore and deliver them. *1 John 5:14 - This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, He hears us. And if we know that he hears us-whatever we ask - we know that he will give us what we asked him.*
- The emphasis here is on God's will, not our will.
- When we communicate with God, we don't demand what we want; rather we discuss with him what he wants for us.
- If we align our prayers to his will, he will listen; and we can be certain that if he listens, he will give us a definite answer. **Start praying with confidence!**
 - *Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. [6] In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths*
 - *Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*
 - *Psalms 37: 4 - Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*
 - *Isaiah 43:2- When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.*