

The background of the entire cover is a dramatic, low-angle illustration of ancient stone construction workers. In the upper right, two figures stand atop a high wall of large, rectangular stone blocks, one pointing towards the horizon. Below them, several other workers are visible, some carrying large circular stones or tools. The scene is set against a bright, glowing sunset or sunrise sky, with the warm light illuminating the workers and the stone structures. The overall color palette is dominated by warm oranges, yellows, and reds from the sky, transitioning into darker, more saturated colors towards the bottom where the title is placed.

GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR BUILDING

FAITH TO BUILD

APOSTLE SONYA L. THOMPSON

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INTRODUCTION



If faith to build were easy, everyone would be completing their God designed work. To be truthful, faith to build will always be met with resistance, this is how we know we are about a good kingdom work. If you are going to have faith to build, there are several key questions you will need to ask yourself, and depending upon the answers, you must be prepared to move accordingly. In your building process, be prepared to deal with the distractions of the enemy, or he will cause you to abort your assignment and weaken your hands!

This e-Book will aid you in accepting or rejecting a building process, help you navigate your way through it and finish the good work the Lord has committed to your stewardship!

Chapter 1

FAITH TO BUILD – THE FOUNDATION



Normally, when we think of the building process, one of the first things we assess is the materials we will need to purchase to complete the work. We must also understand the proper sequence of the building process, if we desire to produce something that is lasting and durable. So, we see building as the process of taking natural things, putting them together and ending up with a completed work which is generally accomplished by using a BLUEPRINT! I am not going to allow any builder to build a home for me if he is just going to wing it! He will need to produce a blueprint, not only for me, but it is also necessary for those he hires to help him!

We understand this process in the natural, but somehow how our spiritual building process is far less organized. Why? Because we are building using our own blueprint. Many times, we will get the idea from the Holy Spirit, then we set out to accomplish the work without Him! We go about branding and making everything look like success and then in the end, we are left with a lifeless work. Oh! We will

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return when we realize the product is not producing the results He intended. We can only go so far without the Holy Spirit because He **NEVER** gives us all of the details or materials at one time. We will **NEVER** complete an eternal work properly without the Master Builder— the Holy Spirit. This is why it is so important to stay connected with Him from the beginning to completion of the project.

When the Holy Spirit builds, He builds with and upon the foundation of **WORDS** —not just any words, but words that have been released by the Lord. He hovers over Heaven’s mandates to energize them with God life and to aid us in accomplishing our Kingdom building processes, the same way He did in the book of Genesis. God establishes His building process by declaring a word or words **FIRST**.

Before one brick is set, one pipe is laid, one coat of paint has been added, our Father has **ALREADY** completed the work with words! The catch here is I must say what God is saying, when He is saying it. This is the proper way to lay the foundation. You will **NOT** just say what you want and get what you want, when you want it. It must be approved by Heaven!

You will also declare a thing, And it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways (Job 22:28).

The word established means to stand up, arise, to become powerful, to be fixed, valid and fulfilled. So, without the declaration of the word God has given you, you will never see the authentic blueprint come

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to full fruition! Remember, building does not start with doing, it starts with the declaration of what GOD has said concerning the matter. If I am truly going to have faith to build, my work must rest on the foundation of the word. I will go a little further with this concept in a later chapter.

Chapter 2

IS IT MINE TO BUILD?



Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it (Psalm 127:1).

The wisdom from this Song of Ascents of Solomon is crucial to our, your, having faith to build. Even when you have a word from the Lord concerning the assignment, you must always ask yourself a key question **BEFORE** embarking on anything! The question is this: **“Is it mine to build?”** If it is yours to build, then the Lord will be with you in the process.

For example, David wanted to build a house for the Lord, but let’s look at the Lord’s response to him.

2 Samuel 7:1-5 & 12-13

Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies all around, **2** that the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.” **3** Then Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.” **4** But it happened that night that the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, **5** “Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?”

Is It Mine to Build?

12 “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Nathan the Prophet was initially in agreement with David. David’s proposal sounded great and godly. Who would not say, **“Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you?”** I would like to add a side note right here. If you are a Prophet, do not be so quick to come into agreement with the plans of people. I have seen many times where someone begins to prophecy in error, because they have not paused to hear from the Holy Spirit before opening their mouth. They are in fact prophesying based on what they see or what one says they are about to embark upon, thus resulting in a soulish prophesy! It can sound really good and the breath of God is nowhere in it! Before you open your mouth, you must hear from the Holy Spirit!

David had a zeal for the things of God. He was a man after God’s heart, BUT he was not the one to build a dwelling place (if there could be one) for God! That same prophet, Nathan, after hearing the word of the Lord in a dream, had to go back and tell David, he was not the one to build, but his seed, which would be Solomon, would build this house for the Lord. Before we attempt to build anything for the Lord; **we must check with the Holy Spirit first** to see if it is ours to build.

Is It Mine to Build?

I have heard it said many times that if we find what we are passionate about, that is our assignment. Though that may be true some of the time, it cannot be the rule of thumb all the time. I think this account with David disproves this. From a personal standpoint, I am passionate about a whole lot of stuff, but I do not address a lot of the issues or things I can technically put my hands to because it is not my assignment. It is not mine to build! I am not just speaking from a ministry standpoint. I am also speaking as a wife, mother, and an entrepreneur.

If we are going to have faith to build, we cannot build from passion and zeal alone. We must build based upon “it” being our assignment - fueled with passion!

Let’s look at several verses in the book of John as it relates to the concept, is it mine to build?

In **John chapter 2 verse 13-17** it says,

13 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. 15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables. 16 And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!” 17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.”

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Jesus found Himself in the temple and a righteous anger arose in Him as He saw how the people were doing business in His Father's house. He began turning tables over and whipping them until they got out, because they had turned it into a house of merchandise. This right here will preach, but I am not going to address this passion of mine because it is not my assignment in writing this eBook! This moment in time was written about in the book of Psalm chapter sixty-nine! Jesus had walked into the word which pointed to Him as the one who was to address the issue in His Father's house. It was clearly His assignment. It was clearly His to build!

Chapter 3

ESTABLISH THE FOUNDATION PROPERLY



In the first chapter, I shared some important insight of how God builds. We must know what the foundation is before we can properly establish anything upon it. If God used **words to build, and we are made in His likeness and image, how should we build?**

The key to properly establishing a thing, is to simply declare what the Holy Spirit is saying. We cannot declare what we desire and expect God to carry out our wishes. The Holy Spirit broods over and adds His creative power to manifest what the Lord is speaking. Since we know the declaration finishes the building process, let's see what happens when we decree and declare what the Lord is saying.

When I come into prophetic agreement with God, a building process is **completed** in the spiritual realm. The key to its manifestation in the natural is this: **I MUST STAY IN THE BUILDING PROCESS.** How? I must keep my conversation in agreement with the

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foundation, which was initially laid in the beginning, in the realm of the spirit.

I believe when we really figure out how POWERFUL words are, we will begin to see a whole lot more manifestation of the word in our lives!

Proverbs 18:21 says

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

The phrase **“are in the power of the tongue”** comes from the Hebrew word **Yad**. Two of the key words I want to stress concerning the definition of yad is hand, strength, or power. With this in mind, I will restate this a different way. Death and life are in the hand of the tongue. You thought you only had two hands, but you really have three! Your tongue has power, just like a hand to release into your future and pull into your present. **The hand of the tongue is always planting seed for your future!** That future can unfold itself tomorrow. So, do not get upset with God when you start seeing what you are saying if it is not in alignment with His word. You cannot agree with God on Monday and talk crazy on Wednesday! You are either in or out of this building process; You need to make up your mind!

Here is something I pray you will never forget: The ability to speak—words are a gift from God! Words are merely containers which carry seed to promote death or life. It is evident we are not convinced of

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this as a whole; because we are very loose with our words and tend to say whatever we “feel” or comes to mind. I also see great immaturity in the body as it relates to God’s word. We take the things of God and reduce them to jokes. It is no wonder there is no power in the church! What we have termed good, clean, fun is a mockery of the things of God! God gave us words so that we can be co-creators of good with Him and establish the kingdom in the earth! When we begin to see the power of words in this light, it should really cause us to set a guard over our mouth!

Proverbs 14:1

The wise woman builds her house, But the foolish pulls it down with her hands.

The word hands in **Proverbs 14:21** is the same as that found in **Proverbs 18:21—Yad**. Looking at this Scripture from the perspective of the tongue as a hand indicates that the wise woman can also build her house with her words, but the foolish one tears it down with them. What kind of a builder are you?

Chapter 4

THE EYES OF THE MASTER BUILDER



Another important aspect of having faith to build requires us to have the eyes of the Master Builder. This means I must view the blueprint through the eyes of the Lord. One of the “infirmities” in the body of Christ is taking the supernatural things of God and reducing them to our own natural perspective. We cannot continue to see things on a natural level and expect to have a supernatural outcome. We should instead take the super and attach it to our natural, which in turn pulls our level of thinking and sight to a much higher level. The Holy Spirit uses things we understand in the natural to give us insight, but we must ultimately ask Him to give us a complete picture and understanding of what He wants to accomplish through us. We do not think like God — **that is without the of the Holy Spirit**. Whenever we eliminate His input from the process, we are thinking like mere men and not like the supernatural beings that we are! When we do not think like God, we cannot **SEE** right!

8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher

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than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9

Isaiah 55 speaks of our **former** state, before we were filled with the Holy Spirit. But in fact, many believers are still locked in these verses when they act as if they have no Helper on the inside of them!

1 Corinthians 2:16

For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

Our job is to conform our thoughts to the thoughts of the Holy Spirit. We can and do know the thoughts of God because the Holy Spirit lives in us. When we know His thoughts, we will be able to SEE through the eyes of the Master Builder! This is the only way to see a God manifestation of the work He is doing through you.

FAITH HAS EYES

Faith that builds must see what God sees; **FAITH MUST HAVE EYES!** When I build with Holy Spirit ordained words, I have to see the finished work. This forces us to throw away the theology we have picked up, that faith is blind! We can no longer ascribe to this theology because words create pictures.

When the Lord hires us to build for Him, we know point A which is where we are, and we know point Z, which is our destination. What is true is **we do not know what lies in between**, but that does not mean

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faith is blind. It simply means I can see through His eyes up until this point and as I continue to seek Him for the rest of the blueprint and the bricks to build, He continues to change my eyeglass “prescription” when it is necessary for me to see the next step of the project! When we do not allow the Holy Spirit to continue to adjust our eyes to His vision, we will find ourselves getting ahead of Him or working on the project through the eyes of the flesh. If we do things this way, when all is said and done, we will not have completed the work according to His specifications and will find ourselves disappointed with the results.

Scripture also validates this concept. In the text below God speaks to Abram about his future. Notice He takes him outside to give him a picture of what his descendants would look like. Abram got a glimpse of his future. His faith “took on eyes” when the Lord allowed the stars to write an indelible mark on the screen of his imagination, to remind Abram of his ultimate outcome. He used something common to give him a glimpse into his future! Even if the Lord used the word stars and had not taken him out to see, Abram could have still grasped the concept of what his inheritance was going to look like!

4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.” 5 Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” Genesis 15:4-5

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In **John 8:56**, Jesus was being insulted by the Jews who said he was a Samaritan and had a demon.

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.”

Abraham’s faith had eyes to see the day of the Lord. He might not have had an opportunity to participate in it from a natural sense, but he still saw it through the eyes of God.

Let’s look at another example in **Hebrews 12:2**

Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus had eyes of faith. The phrase “**set before Him**” means, for the joy placed before his eyes or what was placed in view. Oh! Jesus could see the end of His suffering. This is what kept Him steadfast and unmovable. This is what caused Him to finish His work — eyes of faith!

I want to make the final statement in this chapter real big so you will **NEVER** let anyone tell you again that faith is blind.

VISION IS ESSENTIAL FOR FAITH THAT BUILDS -
FAITH IS NOT BLIND!

Chapter 5

NEHEMIAH IT'S MINE-TAKING STEWARDSHIP



There are several chapters we will look at in the book of Nehemiah to substantiate the key points the Holy has brought forth about building to apply them to your own life. You will be able to identify hinderances to your building and evaluate your posture even during opposition in the process.

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. *It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, 2 that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. 3 And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."*4 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. Nehemiah 1:1-4

When Nehemiah heard of the distress of his brethren and the condition of the wall of Jerusalem, he did not immediately begin a plan to rescue them or

NehemiahIt's Mine—Taking Stewardship

begin preparing to rebuild the wall. The first thing he began to do was to entreat the Lord, to seek Him, to humble himself and pray with fasting and weeping. He spent time reminding the Lord of His faithfulness and His word. He waited to see what God's response would be. This points us back to our conversation about zeal. He was zealous but He waited to see if this zeal would push him or someone else into this assignment.

The first question that was addressed here is:

1. IS IT MINE TO BUILD?

Somewhere during Nehemiah's time of fasting, it is evident he heard from the Lord that this was his assignment. We can identify this for certain as we fast forward into **chapter 2 verse 12**

12 Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode.

It is clear in the verse 12; God had assigned this tremendous task to Nehemiah.

There are several key points I would like to highlight in this chapter which I believe are key components to the building process.

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a. **Purpose brings PURITY in the PROCESS**

Notice Nehemiah's purpose in the building as I have underlined below from verse 11.

O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name.

There are a lot of people saying they are doing things in the name of the Lord, but they are really trying to make a name for themselves! His desire was to accomplish this work because he and those who were affected desired to move because of the fear God's name. In other words, the desire to rebuild this temple was for the sole purpose of bringing honor to the name of the Lord!

A practical application and place of introspection concerning this point is this: Is your purpose for what you are building pure beloved? There are a lot of people trying to build for the sole purpose of proving to people around them that they could! There are many who have been fueled by impure sermons of showing their haters what they missed out on and how wonderful they are. Do not allow this be you! Let your vindication come from God because there is nothing worse than the stench of arrogance and pride! It will **HALT** your building process, even if it is yours to build!

As we progress to chapter two the king recognizes that there is something wrong with his cupbearer.

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And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. 2 Therefore the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart. "So I became dreadfully afraid, 3 and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?" 4 Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."

Take note that Nehemiah prayed to God to respond properly to the king's request. We also see another indication here that he knew it was his to build which leads me to the second point I will interject.

b. Take STEWARDSHIP of the Blueprint

If it is yours to build, then take **STEWARDSHIP** of it. Accept the responsibility for completing the work. Do not make excuses for why you cannot get the building project done. Tell the Lord, "Yes Lord I will do it! I see this is mine to build and I take responsibility for this blueprint!" You do not need to take OWNERSHIP, only stewardship. What you own you fund! I believe this is why so many people never complete their assignments, they think the must pay for it! God will bring the provision for what He asks you to build!

c. Recognize TIMING is Everything

Notice in the text above Nehemiah prayed to God. Not only was he seeking for the proper response, but he also needed to know if this was the set time to release what God had placed in His heart.

To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

This is going to help you! How many times have you released or started something before its set time? When you do this, there is always someone waiting to talk you out of what God has told you or someone who tries to inject fear of failure before you can even get started. Learn to be QUIET about your blueprint until the Lord gives you permission to share it. Even we he allows you to start working on it, you should only share the vision with those who need to know! How do you know who the right person(s) is?

We find the answer to this question in verses 6-8,

6 Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.7 Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah, 8 and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

After Nehemiah made His request to the king, he prepared letters to send with Nehemiah on his journey. Now I can answer the question I posed above. You will know the right person/people because they have ***letters or “papers” to send you off***. They are kings who will have something to add to your journey, whether it is financial resources, wisdom, prayer, other connections etc. They have **ACCESS** in some shape or fashion, which will be key to your assignment. Therefore, you cannot share your blueprint with everybody. You do not have time to just be talking! I need to talk to the RIGHT people! You need to talk to the kings who are in your life or who are coming into your life who have keys, are doors or are bridges to take you into your future.

d. You will NEED Others

Do not let anyone fool you with that “self-made” nonsense. Nobody is a self-made anything! We all need someone to help us! Statements like this are the height of pride and are absolute foolishness. God has designed the building process to include the help and participation of others. Even in the natural process of building a home, there are a lot of people who contribute to it. So, let's stop being foolish and repeating idiotic statements which make no sense. This is the kind of conversation worldly people have! Remember, you need to have conversations with kings. They are divinely assigned individuals with spiritual & natural ability and authority. These are not necessarily higher ups, or those you have submitted your life to. There is a king in each

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one of us — each one of us holds the papers to send someone off into their assignment.

Chapter 6

NEHEMIAH ESTABLISHING IT PROPERLY



In this section I am going to combine two of the principles because they complement each other. In **Nehemiah chapter 2**, He heads out to survey the area and formulate a plan. Read carefully through the text below.

11 So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. 12 Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode. 13 And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire. 14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal under me to pass. 15 So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. 16 And the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work. 17 Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." 18 And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said,

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"Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work.

After Nehemiah surveyed the area and took an assessment of the work at hand, he got a **vision** and made a prophetic declaration, "**Come let us build the wall...**" He established his work with faith filled words. His declaration was the equivalent to Peter walking on water. A lot of people say, "One day I am going to walk on water." What many do not realize is the moment they step out on the word of God; it is the equivalent of walking on water. Peter's walking on water was not really about the water, it was about the word of God as a sure foundation under his feet when it was paired with faith. The word of God congealed under Peter's feet. When he took his eyes off the Word (Jesus) and his faith failed, he began to sink. Such is the case with us when we lose sight of the word under our feet.

When one who has faith to build has eyes to see and establishes it properly, he/she will attract builders. Ideas do not attract builders, VISION attracts builders! In verse 18, Nehemiah shares his testimony with the men. This is a summation of all he had been through and the favor God had given him up to that point. His testimony was so faith and vision filled, that it ignited a fire in those around him, to a point where their language matched the language of the visionary.

18 And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had

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spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work.

Not only did they commit to build with Nehemiah, but they called it a good work. They saw this endeavor as a good work because it was a God designed work.

Chapter 7

KNOW HOW TO ADDRESS YOUR ENEMY



One of the most critical elements in faith that builds, is the ability and the wisdom in knowing how or if you need to address your enemy. Before we go any further, please realize, your enemy does not have a face. Your enemy is the enemy of your soul, Satan. He happens to use people but remember we do not wrestle against flesh and blood. This is one of the very first hurdles you will need to overcome. For many, this is their stopping ground; they become fixated on the face, the person, but not the source of the wrestling.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).

Faith that builds must resist obstacles, accusations, confusion, the rebellious, naysayers, mockers, anger, lies, deception, and a whole host of other distractions to avoid aborting, distorting, or delaying the building process! You will lose a lot of time if you babysit the distraction of accusation. We do not

Know How to Address Your Enemy

need to defend ourselves when we are doing a work for the Lord; We must be few with our words and allow the Holy Spirit to be our defender.

Let's look at verse 19 & 20 as it pertains to Nehemiah

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?"20 So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem.

Take note of how Nehemiah defended himself against the accusations of Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem. There really was no defense — ***"God will prosper us."*** In other words, they decided to let God validate their work. They were convinced that the outcome would speak for itself. If I were to add myself to this account, modern day Sonya would say, "Talk to God because I am BUILDING!" I have learned, the minute I start building, the distractions come out of the woodwork. Distractions won't always look like an enemy which tries to arrest your assignment, but distractions can also come through an invitation into other areas, which you think is from God, so you stop building and start another work, leaving the former undone. You must ALWAYS ask the question, "Is it mine to build and is it my timing?" The enemy is very subtle, so stick with the last instruction God gave you and inquire of everything that is presented while you are building. When your focus is broken, unfulfillment is the baby you will

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birth. So, keep building! There is great strength to resist the devices of the enemy when you know God has sent you to build.

As we progress to the fourth chapter of Nehemiah, the heat of the enemy gets turned up to another level. As you look at the text below, recognize why the posture of Sanballat changed. He was already aware of the building process. What was different? What had changed?

But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. 2 And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish—stones that are burned?" (Nehemiah 1:1-2)

Your enemy becomes furious when he realizes you are REALLY building! There are a lot of people who talk about doing things for God and nothing ever manifests. But, there are those who you know, if they say God told them to do something, you just need to go sit back and wait for it because the vision is going to speak in its time. When Sanballat was confronted with the reality of the completion of the project, he became indignant. But in this indignation, we can also detect his fear. He was afraid he would be proven wrong. He was afraid he would look like a fool before his men because they had mocked this builder of the Lord.

Know How to Address Your Enemy

An Apostolic builder can see order amid chaos; This is why Nehemiah was able to complete the process.

Even when confronted with mockery and indignation, Nehemiah directed the “traffic” to God. Look at verse 4 & 5

4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! 5 Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders.

He did not get into an exchange of words or take to social media to let everyone know how these leaders were messing with him and his boys! NO! He talked to God and left the response up to Him.

WHEN THE DISTRACTION GETS WITHIN

This was not an overnight building process. Can you imagine the continuous assault while trying to build? They were loud, obnoxious, and threatening until it came to a point when those who were with Nehemiah began to be affected and INFECTED by the harassment. What happens when those who committed to build with you become infected by the words of the enemy? What happens when their vision gets clouded and their strength fails? As a builder, what will you do?

10 Then Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall.” 11 And our adversaries said, “They will neither know

Know How to Address Your Enemy

nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease.”

Not only was their strength failing but they began to rehearse the word of the enemy – **“Our adversaries said...”** You will need to have an answer, wisdom, and a strategy from the Holy Spirit if you are going to finish the work. As a result, a strategy was incorporated to protect and finish the work. If it meant getting “violent” they were willing to do so

16 So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah. 17 Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. 18 Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me.

How many times have you aborted a project the Holy Spirit has given you because of obstacles, because of what someone told you could or could not do, or told you it was not the time, when in fact GOD told you to go and build? How many times have your circumstances talked you out of your destiny? How many times has the enemy caused disruption in your home or attacked you physically and instead of getting the spear and sword of the word of God, you came down from the wall or started to come into agreement with him? This might be a place to pause and repent. Because I can sense this includes the masses. We must know how to build and fight!

Know How to Address Your Enemy

You must learn how to encourage yourself and those assigned with you. You must go back to God during the process to see how He would have you to defend His work. When it is time to get radical, you will be radical! Your stand of faith and application of the God given strategy will strengthen your builders. You must be violent about completing our wall!

HE WANTS TO WEAKEN YOUR HANDS!

In Nehemiah Chapter 6, the enemy uses yet another tactic of distraction —conspiracy. Sanballat and Geshem tried an approach to lure Nehemiah into the plain for a meeting. They approached him not once, twice or three times, but five times.

...Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono.” But they thought to do me harm. 3 So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?”4 But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner (Nehemiah 6:2-4)

Oh! I love Nehemiah! He answered them the same way every single time. “I am doing a great work so that I cannot come down.” He **COULD NOT** come down because he knew he was building on the right foundation, it was his to build, He had the vision of the master builder , he was in the right timing, and he had the divine help he needed! When theses foundations are in place you **CANNOT COME DOWN OFF OF YOUR WALL!** Nothing will talk you down from or out of your assignment!

Two important points to remember:

- ***The closer you are to the completion of the project, the hotter the fire gets! This right here will preach. It took me straight to the book of Daniel, but I am going to stay on course with this assignment.***
- ***The enemy will always come after the visionary. If the visionary is blinded or has skewed vision, the building process will go unfinished!***

On the fifth and final attempt, the servant of Sanballat returns with a letter which outlined a supposed conspiracy of Nehemiah to place himself in the position of king in Judah! This would have gotten most of us to come down off the wall for sure. But not Nehemiah, because he had discernment to recognize their tactic.

Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand. 6 In it was written: It is reported among the nations, and Geshem says, that you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore, according to these rumors, you are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king. 7 And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, "There is a king in Judah!" Now these matters will be reported to the king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together. 8 Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart." 9 For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done." Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

Know How to Address Your Enemy

My friend, the enemy wants to weaken your hands! FEAR causes the hands to become weakened. The enemy know if fear is embraced, your strength to build will be broken. I feel I need to reiterate that again. If you embrace fear, your strength to build will be broken and your vision will become clouded. Your words will match your adversary and your labor will come to an end. If Nehemiah would have taken this letter into his hands and left the wall to address the matter, they would have killed him, and the other builders would have scattered. Do not allow the enemy to put anything in your hands which will weaken them! There is nothing more unattractive than an uncompleted building project; It makes a statement to all who see it. Incomplete projects declare: "Here stands a building in which the builder's hands were weakened!"

Chapter 9

IT IS FINISHED!



It is finished — The place we want to get to overnight. There is a phenomenon in the body of Christ, where we get super excited about the assignment until we realize it is going to be a lot of work and opposition. As a builder, as an Apostle of Christ, I must make this clear to you; **There is no building, no good work, without great opposition!** You will do nothing that is from the Lord without going through this process. Only the strong and the faithful will survive on the wall of affliction. Now, let's look at the completion of this GOOD WORK!

15 So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God (Nehemiah 6:15-16).

Reading this verse makes me want to run! The work was completed and when the enemies heard of it, and all SAW the completed work, they were VERY disheartened! Why? Because they perceived this was a work done by GOD! This is why you must be quiet and build. Stop talking to the wrong people

It Is Finished!

about what you are doing and just DO IT! Send your traffic of distraction to the Father; fight when necessary in the magnitude of the strategy the Holy Spirit gives you, and do not let the enemy weaken your hands! Nehemiah, if you stay on the wall, everyone will perceive this was from God. They (your enemies) cannot fight God and win! The only person who can stop a builder is you! If God gives you an assignment that does not get completed, it is your fault. Stay on that wall and finish His good work! I want you to be able to look at your wall and say, “My God, it is finished!”

*Nehemiah means **YAWEH COMFORTS**.* A builder brings comfort. Finishing brings comfort to those we are connected to. When you complete whatever work the Lord has assigned to your hands, the finished product will bring comfort to generations. Your sphere of influence gets impacted as well. This is what Kingdom building is all about — impacting generations!

Chapter 10

RESTORATION IN BUILDING



As you finish this E-book, you should take time to read the book of Ezra. As a result of Nehemiah's willingness to fight the good fight of faith, Ezra comes in and reads the Law before the people. This building process promoted a *REFORMATION*. When true reformation comes in, things are corrected, realigned, and re-established. At the time of the writing of this E-book, a global reformation has started; But real and lasting reformation comes when things are corrected and re-established on a spiritual level. We can make all the physical outward changes we want, but nothing is really established until it is adjusted in the realm of the spirit.

In the book of Ezra, the hearts of the people are restored to God once again. Godly liberty invades the region and they began to celebrate. The joy of the Lord became their strength and generations were shifted and changed! This will be the case as we move through the current global pandemic that has gripped our nation. Reform will come and all hearts and eyes will once again be turned to the Lord!

Restoration in Building

Beloved, there is a lot attached to your ability to complete your work! Generations are hoping you will stick with your zeal and willingness to build. They are counting on you to stay on the wall and when the enemy of distraction shows up, you like Nehemiah will say, ***“I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?”***

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION



1. **What work has the Lord assigned to you? (make a list if necessary)**
2. **Once you have a list of assignments go to the Holy Spirit and find out HIS priority & strategy and start building or resume building.**
3. **Did you finish the work? Are you working on it?**
4. **Have you gotten distracted in the assignment? If so, what caused the distraction?**

If this applies: Where did you lose passion, zeal or get delayed or discouraged in the process?

REPENT: If you have left your work or procrastinated with the assignment go back to God and repent. We have a promise in **1 John 1:9** for forgiveness and cleansing when we repent. Then go back and see what the Holy Spirit wants you to do and don't you dare come down from that wall again until you are **DONE!**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Apostle Sonya L. Thompson of ARISE Ministries International is called as a teacher to the body of Christ to; **“Train, Educate and Advise through the Gospel with Simplicity and Purity.”** She is an entrepreneur, business owner, mentor, and spiritual mother. She holds a Bachelor of Science in the field of Business Administration, a Master of Arts in Biblical Leadership, and a Doctorate in Biblical Finances. Apostle Thompson was ordained as a Pastor by world renowned minister of the gospel, Dr. Nasir Siddiki and affirmed as an Apostle by Apostle Jerry D. Owens of Joshua Generation Outreach Church.

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