

2nd Week of September

Faith Beyond Hindrances

- **Text:** Nehemiah 6:15~16 (September 11)
- **Bottom line:** True faith is overcoming all obstacles and accomplishing God's work.

≡ 1. Praise

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≡ 2. Prayer

Thank you, God, for allowing our family to follow the path of faith. Please guide us to understand Your Words and live according to Your will.

≡ 3. The Word

Read Nehemiah 6:15~16 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

15 So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

<NASB>

¹⁵So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of *the month* Elul, in fifty-two days. ¹⁶When all our enemies heard *about it*, and all the nations surrounding us saw *it*, they lost their confidence; for they realized that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

Understanding Text

The wall of Jerusalem was threatened and hindered by an enemy (the won) who did not want it to be rebuilt, so the people of Judah took up arms in one hand and worked with the other. Nevertheless, the construction of the wall was completed in 52 days because God helped them. The adversary and the surrounding nations were afraid when they realized that this was the work of God.

Understanding the text for Leaders

When Nehemiah and the men of Judah tried to rebuild the wall, Sanballat, who was the governor of Samaria, and Tobiah the Ammonite were very displeased (2:10). If Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, it would hinder their expansion. They thought that when the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt, the temple would be restored, and the people of Judah would be united around the temple and free from their influence. They blackmailed Nehemiah and threatened him with political conspiracy theories. They spread rumors and even mobilized Judah's nobles and priests to disrupt the construction of the walls of Jerusalem. But Nehemiah, who was firmly in God's hands, did not waver in the slightest. Instead, the people of Judah became more united around Nehemiah (4:14) and rebuilt the wall. As a result of all that hard work, the wall was completed in 52 days after construction began. When the people of Judah and Nehemiah rejoiced and rejoiced together, the enemy who opposed the project and the surrounding nations reacted in a different way. Seeing clearly that God was at work among them, the adversary was in despair and fear. Those who participate in God's work with faith are truly happy to be victorious after the good fight, but those who only think about their own interests and do not think about God's work will see God's work as a disaster.

4. Sharing

1) When the wall of Jerusalem was completed, how did the adversary and the surrounding nations react? Why? (verses 15~16)

Upper Grades

Why did the won despair when the repair of the walls of Jerusalem was finished? (verse 16).

Lower Grades

How did the surrounding nations feel when they saw the completion of the walls of Jerusalem? Why? (verse 16).

Question Guide

The rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem was the beginning of the restoration for the people of Judah and a dream of new hope. However, the adversary and the surrounding nations who were holding their land did not like the rebuilding of the wall, fearing that it would reduce their wealth and influence. They didn't believe in God, so they put their own interests ahead of God's work.

Commentary for Leaders

Sanballat the Horonite was a governor of the province of Samaria, north of Judah. Tobiah was an Ammonite who didn't like the restoration of the Jewish people. The Geshimites lived in the land of Edom in the south of Judah, and they were not happy with the restoration of the nation of Judah because it would not benefit them (2:19). Nevertheless, God again gave the people of Judah a chance and helped them recover. Those who didn't fear God didn't care about God's work, but only cared more about their own interests.

2) When do I want to give up my religious commitments? Take the time to pray together to walk the path of faith with fortitude even in such situations.

■ Upper Grades

What weakens my commitment in faith? Think about how you can cope.

■ Lower Grades

What are some bad habits or behaviors that I need to change in order to worship well at church and at home?

□ Question Guide

Some people follow through on what they start with faith, while others give up halfway through. If any of the faith commitments you made as you began 2024 were to give up, reflect on why you gave up. Please pray for each other that we will be able to start over now, and that we will not give up no matter what the situation is, and that we will be able to fulfill our religious commitments with fortitude.

□ Commentary for Leaders

Sometimes the things we do in faith can be criticized and ignored by unbelievers. However, what matters to God's people is God's perspective and evaluation, not people's views and evaluations. If we are confident that what we have decided to do in faith is based on our promises to God and that it is God's guidance, we can walk the path of faith to the end, no matter what obstacles there may be. Even if you encounter obstacles or obstacles, I hope you will not get discouraged or give up, but will focus on God and use it as an opportunity to grow in faith. God helps us when we choose a faith that focuses entirely on God in the face of people's disregard and criticism. Please support our family so that they can do God's work well.

≡ 5. Be grateful

Thank God for allowing you to live by faith and not into unbelief.

≡ 6. Prayer

God, please help our family to be partners in the good works You are doing, not opposers. Please give us the strength to keep our resolutions to the end, even if there are difficulties and obstacles, and let us always be filled with the joy of heaven.

- End the family worship service with the "Prayer the Lord Taught You."
