

Born with Identity
Part 16: People of Consistent Persistence!
Slide Notations

Calling Statement... We are people in, of, and standing on, the *Word*, being filled, overflowed, and refilled w/the *Holy Spirit* who enables us for *enduring service* to mankind as fully settled *slaves* of God. We are *forgivers* of men's sins against us and *refuser's of offenses* so we can *soldier* w/o distractions and fulfill our mission to save and heal lives at every dimension... As fools for Christ, fearless and tireless, we partner with God to deliver miracles to people in need; as *all-in* members of Christ's army we seek the non-weird, never spooky, *fullness of His Spirit*; as *faithful givers* we pave the way for Kingdom generations – moving with *diligence and speed* to be fully prepared by faith for the times we live in!

I had hoped for a natural way to talk to you about how I prepare myself each week for ministry time to you during our Spirit Filled session...

Rather than sitting down and man-crafting a “sermon,” every day I ask the Lord to tell me what I have seen (**R7.14**), to interpret what I know, and what it means to you!

During each session I wait for the concepts to drop into my heart then I make a slide, then I wait for specific scriptures to rise and then I wait some more to put the pieces together!

In the age of multiple authors, predigested revelations, shortcut demands it could sound stranger than fiction to prepare this way but it really is just a part of Spirit Filled life for “ministers!”

Waiting on the Spirit... Allows Him to lead... not follow up... Guarantees His voice... Removing the fear that if we don't have a “word from the Lord” we have still certainly heard from the Lord! Guarantees dependence and purity of source! One Book, One Author and Finisher!

Normally... I receive a sense of direction for each week's message during/after delivery... But this last week I had nothing! Not too worried about it Sunday night... A little less comfortable Monday night... A little concerned Tuesday evening... before I left for a meeting!

The Meeting... Was the stuff urban legends are spun from! Ambush by people who had picked up someone else's offense – never right! Book of Acts chaos, some shouting one thing, others shouting another... People w/concerns, talk; w/fear/yell! Everyone in the room would say they were Christians... Some pretending not to be! Forgetting some pretty basic stuff!

The next morning I found myself talking to the guy who was the focus of their anger... referring to this passage of scripture in Nehemiah...

So when I asked the Lord to tell me what I had seen, to interpret what I know and what it means to you... this is what formed up – a message from Nehemiah...

Caveat... I was always taught to never preach from this passage of scripture... Because if a pastor uses this passage he must be defending himself and we don't... If guilty we take it/if not God fights for us... I am not defending myself from anything... *And I am not defending anyone else either!*

The Back Story... Jerusalem is desolate, degraded and disgraced... **1.3** Nehemiah hears, sits, weeps, mourns, fasts and prays *from Nov/April!* He begs God, night and day, for mercy, forgiveness, restoration of His promises, and favor w/king who can help! Gets it all, and more! Asides: *Didn't need this/life has gone on!*

Nehemiah shares his vision and many people come on board... **2.1-18** But there's always a "Sanballat and Tobiah" in the wings... **v19** Looking for entrance, acknowledgment and control... in a work that is not their own... **v20**

Chapter 3 is about the second wave of success... Nehemiah has secured the Kings help... He has secured the help of the people... And the job is off to successful start! "Sanballat and Tobiah" ratchet up with anger, indignation, mockery *and a larger group!* **4.1-11**

Chapter 5 is all about internal failure! Always more than one "front..." Not even all the people who see what's happening/stay in line! Eyes not lifted high enough to get the big picture of what God is doing... Only see what's there for themselves! Little correction and back on track with joy! **v9-13**

Chapter 6: The Return of Sanballat and Tobiah! New approach: diplomacy! **v2-4** "C'mon, we got off to a bad start; let's meet on the plain of *Ono!*" New & improved approach: blackmail! **5-8** "You're in it for yourself, to be the new king! We're telling..." Newest approach: self-preservation! **v10**

What should we do when we are following the vision God gave us and someone is trying to make us *give it up?*

And why is the process so painful, so stressful, so threatening to us when we know we are doing what God wants and opposition will rise?

The Problem of Pain... Sanballat: "the enemy is secret!" Been there all the time/waiting/watching! Sniper right in front of you/bead! Rattles us when we find out that the person we have eaten with, talked to, laughed and cried with... Is the same one who shot us!

The Problem of Pain... Tobiah: Jehovah is good! How could a man w/a name like that not know better than to partner up with "I'm a secret enemy?" *Okay, we can process a stealthy enemy... But how do I get around my own brother, sister, family member, friend... Who says they're connected to God?*

Nehemiah's Answers... The God of Heaven will prosper us, that's how *we will rise and build!* **2.20** "Hear us God – give us justice as *we continue to build...*" **4.4-6** And they set a watch *day and night!* **v9** "Be not afraid of what they might do, remember the Lord, stand for your families... *and return to work!*" **v14,15** Don't get distracted in the presence of your enemies! **5.9** *I am doing a great work* and cannot come down... *why should it stop?* **6.3** I will not be afraid, *strengthen my hands!* **v9** And it came to pass that *when the work was all done* – they were cast down in their own eyes for they perceived *the protection and plan was God's!* **v16**

No matter what is happening... we are called to be People of Consistent Persistence!