

“How Then, Will We Live?”

Part 9: “Finding our Courage, Healing and Peace!”

2Peter 3.10,11 “The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night; the heavens will pass away with great noise and the framework of the earth will melt with fervent heat and the works of man on the earth will be uncovered and burned up. Seeing then that all these things will be dissolved, how then should we live... what possible sort of people (citizenry) should we be but holy in all lifestyle and godliness?”

2Peter 3.14,15,17 “Beloved, seeing that we look for such things, be diligent that you may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless and accounting the longsuffering of our Lord as salvation... and seeing that you know such things, *beware so that you aren’t led away with the error of the wicked (willingly ignorant) and fall away from your own steadfastness!* You continue to grow in grace; the favor, benefits and gifts of God and in the knowledge of our Lord!”

The Scenario... Troubled times and scoffers of them! **3.3** ‘You make too much of what you see!’ **v4** ‘Things have always been like this!’ **v4** “Walking after their own lusts!” **3.3** We cannot serve God with urgency and hold on to the world offerings! **2.1-22** “**Tempting believers to shared apathy... requiring leaders to stir them up!**” **3.1**

In Response... Peter calls them to attention... to not be ignorant of/in the times! **3.8** To remember the nature of God! Not a slacker of promise! **v9** A God of great mercy/graciousness! **v9** One who will do what He says! **v10** To remember the calling of believers! **V11** Looking for the promise and living with the urgency of it! **v12-14**
“Getting people saved!” **v9, 15 Rom 2.4** **If that’s a little obscured... we have another scenario!**

The Scenario...

“The remnant that are left are in great affliction and reproach and the place is broken down and wide open!” **Neh 1.3** If ever there was a heaven-side description of America, this is it! The church that is left is in *evil adversity* and held in *reproach and shame!* And Nehemiah sat down, wept, mourned, fasted and prayed! **1.4-11** For three months, engaged in one pursuit, searching, and God opens the door! **2.1-8** ENEMIES ALERTED and not happy! **2.10** God has opened the way... and Nehemiah’s group is encouraged... “The God of heaven will prosper us and we will rise up and rebuild!” **v20** ENEMY steps up the assaults... **4.1** (mockery), **4.8** (masses), **6.2** (feigns peace)... **If he can’t mock or intimidate you he will try to make peace with you!**

The Response... Nehemiah’s words: “I am doing a great work and I cannot come away... why should the work cease while I deal with you?” **6.3**

The reason for the assaults is to stop the work! Jesus came to destroy the works of the enemy... and enemy wants to stop the works of His followers! Will mock you, try to intimidate you, make peace with you... even lie about you! **v5** Because once the “City of Lights is back on the Hill” darkness can’t blind the eyes of the world!

We must be people who are free from our distractions... because salvation is important business to God! With all that’s going on, we must be free from the distractions of fear, pain, and anger and the distractions we use to silence them! We must find our courage, healing and peace in God!

Finding it... We have His word... Systematic study is necessary! “Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed...rightly dividing the word of truth!” **2Tim 2.15** “study” “spoudazo:” speedily bring your zeal, earnest desire, best efforts... “To substantiate yourself before God... not mere men...” “As a laborer (not for salvation) that doesn’t need to be shamed...” “**You said My way was too hard? Take what was given to him and give it to another for to him who has, more**

will be given... “correctly dissecting the word of truth...” “God is slack...?” “Nothing has changed since the beginning...?” *“Making straight paths with the word!”*

“How well, how straight, how long, would you walk if the written word was taken away from you today?” Immerse yourself *anew* in His word!

Finding it... *We have His spoken words...* We have His voice! First in His Word... *Then by His Spirit!* Because God desires us to grow and partner with Him in His work! One thing to talk with your child... Another to converse with your partner! How much time do you spend talking to Him within...? AND LISTENING...? AND DOING...?

Practice His Presence!

Finding it... *Find your words...* Moses: “I am not eloquent (lit: “a man of words”), not before or since You began speaking to me have I been, You know I am slow of speech and tongue...” **Ex4.10 PERFECT!** Solomon: “I am but a child that doesn't know the in's and out's...” **1Kings3.7 PERFECT! Pleased the Lord!** Too young/too old/family is nobody! He's heard it ALL from millions! **PERFECT! Allow the Holy Spirit to work within you!** “He will guide you into all truth... He will show you things that you have not known... He will remind you of what I have said... be at peace... do not be troubled or afraid...” **John14/16** “Take no thought how or what you will speak for it will be given to you when you need it – it won't be you but the Spirit of your Father which will speak!” **Mt10.19,20**

Finding it... *Find your song in the night...* Courage, healing and peace, all in one! Friday's song: “We will sing because Your love has found us, even in the darkest night. We'll sing because Your love has set us free! Your love has found us, Your love has found us, we are Yours forever. Your love has found us, it's all around us, holding us together...” Answering to Tuesday's problem!

To know my spirit was divorced from the struggle and tied onto trust in God... PERFECT!