

Week 46
315/50

Transforming Daily
“ . . .to frighten me . . .”
Nehemiah 6:19

Even in the midst of celebration and thanksgiving over the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, the enemies of Nehemiah moved to further threats against him. The victory of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem wasn't enough to squelch the violent accusations from Tobiah and his followers toward Nehemiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. No victory ever is. The believer has to learn to celebrate in the company of the threats, and to praise God in the midst of the attacks. The accomplishment is sweeter and God is more magnified as a result.

The victory of Christ upon the cross was in the midst of ridicule and condemnation by His enemies, as well as, in light of the rejection and abandonment by his closest followers. They all went their separate ways and back to what they were doing before Jesus said to them, “Come, follow Me.” But then came resurrection Sunday. How much sweeter the victory was (is) and that of the glory of God when Christ arose from the grave. Even after the victory, the enemies of Christ were breathing threats, fashioning lies and continued to move to deceive the people.

By all accounts, in light of the crucifixion, it seemed as if the ministry of Christ was in vain and a huge failure. However, if that's the case, why am I sitting here writing to you about Him? Indeed it was not a failure! Instead, it was the greatest victory for all mankind. Jesus knew that His followers would be scattered and confused, but He still called, commanded and commissioned them to preach the gospel. Jesus also knew that the believer would need and receive power from on high through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came to lead, guide, and direct the believer into righteousness for His name sake through spiritual gifts and enlightenment. So they (and we too) received the spirit of love, power, and self control to face any and every threat to the promulgation of the gospel.

Do you recognize the spirit of love, power, and a sound mind? How do you respond to threats related to your relationship with Christ? Is your ministry and service to God hindered by the threats of the enemy? I can always count on accusations and attacks from the enemies of God to threaten the success of my ministry for Christ in an attempt to frighten me.