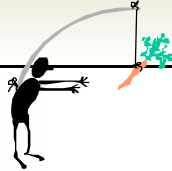


“A Sure Thing—Not A Carrot”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Have you ever run after something and felt like a donkey who is never allowed to catch and eat the carrot that is held a foot ahead of him?



Notes:

[a] Mt.
5:17

Please, despite any challenge you may be facing, let me remind you that our Heavenly Father provided The Blessing through which Believers get complete provision including grace, peace, healing, and financial freedom.

“Then why,” you may ask, “do I feel like I am continually chasing the carrot of The Blessing but do not seem to ever catch it? Or if I catch anything, it is a miniature carrot and not the big carrot I see in front of me?”

Please consider a few things:
1.) Jesus died and rose again to fulfill the Law^[a], therefore those of us who accept Jesus as Savior and Lord are AUTOMATICALLY covered by God’s Blessing.

2.) Those covered by The Blessing do not have to try to earn grace, peace, healing and financial freedom etc. Understanding that these cannot be earned anyway, we can put aside any feelings that we

need to work to earn things that are already ours through Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross.

3.) The “miniature carrot” you caught was not miniature, just the tip of the big “carrot of blessing” that you dropped when you took your eyes off of the One who provides The Blessing to his people.

So what is the best course of action when the manifestation of The Blessing seems to elude you? Remember that God’s promises are “a sure thing.” Look and see if you have any unforgiveness or disobedience in your life. If you do, simply repent, then joyfully focus on God’s promise to you. Dwell on passages in the Word that contain the promises that you are looking to see manifested in your life and with praise and thanksgiving watch them come to pass as you focus on the Provider of The Blessing.

9-28

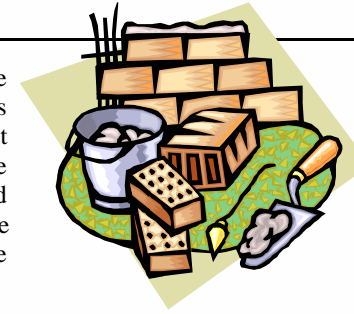
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“Maintain The Walls” (Teaching Sketch)

Nehemiah 2:11-20 (NIV)



There are times in the lives of each of us when we must inspect both the physical house in which our spirit and the Holy Spirit reside and the spiritual house as well.

Comforter would come.^[3] There was a purpose for his saying this that was not understood at the time he said it.

“What do you mean?” you say. Well, the body in which we temporarily reside in this *sojourn* called life is the temple of the Holy Spirit who was sent to us from God.^[1] The Holy Spirit now resides in Believers in Jesus Christ, not in buildings made with hands but in our bodies, the physical temples made by God’s hands. Jesus spoke of his own body as a temple when he said it would be raised again in three days.^[2]

The Physical Body

The physical body is now the temple in which God’s Holy Spirit dwells giving the Believer comfort, companionship, and capability.

Jesus told his disciples he would need to leave so the

Notes:

[a]
1 Corin-
thians
6:19

[2]
John 2:21

[3]
John 16:7

Even today it is not necessary to know, immediately, what God means when he speaks, it is only necessary that we respond with trust until we do understand. Complete understanding of an instruction given by God is not required for obedience.

There is great comfort in knowing the Holy Spirit is not only with the Believer, but in the Believer. This then is the companionship aspect of the relationship between God and the Believer of which Jesus spoke. The witness of the Holy Spirit permits obedience by faith!

Capability comes as the Holy Spirit, within the Believer, flows through them invading

6-30r

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture: Nehemiah 2:11-20 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

Nehemiah Inspects The Walls

¹¹I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days

¹²I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

¹³By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal ^[a] Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. ¹⁴Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and

Notes: the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; ¹⁵so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. ¹⁶The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work. ¹⁷Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. **Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer (Continued)>>**

[a]
Or *Serpent* or
Fig

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship** (*Offerings are placed in the basket at this time*)
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

"Maintain The Walls" (Teaching Sketch)

Nehemiah 2:11-20 (NIV)



> >) **be in disgrace.**" ¹⁸I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

the surrounding natural world with the power of God to effect a change such as healing, faith, etc.. The demonstration of capability in releasing the power of God, at will, to fulfill God's will was and is a great attention step to helping people come to the knowledge of God. This was often employed by Jesus and the Apostles. When the power of God via the Holy Spirit is shown, both the unbeliever and the new Believer are often more receptive to hearing the Word of God and accepting the Word of God!

The Spirit In Us

The soul^[4] must be tended to, just as the physical walls must be tended to, in order to maintain relationship, relevance, and reality in serving our Lord. It is the word of God that divides/separates the soul from the spirit permitting spiritual understanding. [¹²For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.^[5]]

Notes:
[4]
Mind,
will, and
emotions.

Daily time in prayer and scripture is necessary to continuing a fresh and dynamic relationship with God.

[5]
Heb. 4:12

What would any relationship be like if we did not relate on a regular basis. The fact is, we relate most closely to those who are closest to us, by continual contact.

Time and time again in the Gospels we read of Jesus separating himself from the throng to spend both quality and quantity time with the Heavenly Father. Believers must do the same.

Let Us Rebuild!

If your relationship has been damaged by attacks from unbelievers, demonic forces, or neglect of God you can do something now just as in Nehemiah's time:

"Let us rebuild our fortress and not be in disgrace but in power!"