

TOUCHED BY GOD'S HAND



David Wilkerson February 19, 2015

Nehemiah was a man of great intensity for God. "Hannai, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven" (Nehemiah 1:2-4).

The remnant had returned to the holy place, but reproach and lethargy had crept in. Things were still in a dilapidated condition—no spiritual progress was being made.

Scripture says Nehemiah began to weep, mourn and "pray night and day" (verse 6). It was not a matter of being awakened by God in the middle of the night and a burden being dropped into his soul. No! This man of God initiated the burden! He asked for it! "I asked my brethren about the remnant" (see verse 2).

Likewise Daniel spent hours, days and weeks studying God's Word. God did not drop a supernatural burden into his heart; rather, Daniel chastened his own heart. He developed and nurtured a true burden for God's people by diligently studying and gaining an understanding of what God was saying. "I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes" (Daniel 9:3).

Talk about intensity, mourning and weeping! Daniel said, "I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. . . . I retained no strength" (Daniel 10:2-3, 8).

When the hand of God touched Daniel, these words came from the throne: "From the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words" (verse 12). In Hebrew, the word "chasten" means to browbeat the flesh in order to bring it into submission. Paul also said, "I bring my body under subjection!"

The Lord is going to have a people today who are wholly given to His work—intense, passionate and broken—giving every spare hour and dollar to that which represents His interests on earth.

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