

**PRAYER**

- Ask God for rich generosity. Believe Him for the favor and opportunity to be prosperous and generous.

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- Pray that God will use you as a channel of His blessings to the people around you. Ask Him to 'set you up' for these opportunities and obey Him in faith.

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- Pray for our president and our government as a whole, for unity, wisdom, and the fear of the Lord to be upon our leaders.

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**NOTES**

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**CONNECT**

- Have you ever experienced having an opposition while working on a certain group project, a social event or a specific goal? How did you deal with your opposition?
- In teamwork, are you a team player or do you usually serve as a team leader? Give an example.
- If you would be given the opportunity to give or sacrifice something so that there will be greater unity in our nation, what will you give or sacrifice and why?



## WORD

<sup>16</sup>From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah <sup>17</sup>who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, <sup>18</sup>and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

Nehemiah 4:16-18

## WHAT *What does the Bible say?*

Led by Nehemiah, the people of Judah rebuilt Jerusalem's walls despite the threats. They worked at it wholeheartedly and in unity—each person building the wall and always ready to defend against attacks. Here are some lessons we can learn from their story of obedience and unity.

- **Common vision is a key to unity.**

*Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.*

Nehemiah 4:23

The Jews had a common goal of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem so that they were able to sacrificially give their time, effort, and energy (Nehemiah 13:12). This common goal united them as one people and helped them finish the work of rebuilding the wall. How important is having a common goal?

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- **Unity and generosity are key ingredients to change a nation.**

<sup>10</sup>I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let the exacting of usury stop! <sup>11</sup>Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the usury you are charging them—the hundredth part of the money, grain, new wine and oil.” <sup>12</sup>“We will give it back,” they said. “And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.”

Nehemiah 5:10-12

Nehemiah was also able to influence the people of Judah to help the poor and stop the usury or putting excessive interests when

lending out. Through unity and generosity, they were able to effect this moral change in Judah. In what ways can we serve as agents of transformation in our spheres of influence?

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- **God's love and our love for God empower us to become generous and united people.**

<sup>5</sup>But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: <sup>6</sup>Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

1 John 2:5,6

Surely, Nehemiah was driven by God's love and his love for God in all that he did. Like him, God's love and our love for Him compel us to give generously for the advancement of His kingdom. As a united spiritual family, together with the rest of our brethren in the body of Christ, God can use us to transform our nation for His honor and glory. What is God's promise as we unite to heed His call to be generous (2 Corinthians 9:11)?

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## SO WHAT *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

- How can our generosity cause unity as we have seen from the example of Nehemiah and the people of Judah?
- In what ways can God use our unity and generosity as instruments of transformation in our society?
- As God's love and your love for Him empower you, how can you exemplify generosity and promote greater unity in your family, campus, workplace, church, and community?

## NOW WHAT *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

- What can you share or give generously for the advancement of God's kingdom, which leads to our nation's transformation? How do you plan to start doing this?
- How can you foster generosity and greater unity in your sphere of influence?
- What areas of society are you inclined to lift in prayer regularly? Why?