

Then he said to them, “Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Nehemiah 8:10



UNYIELDING SECURITY

ON THE DAY IT WAS COMPLETED the house was without question the strongest, most substantial dwelling for miles around. Its foundation and walls were made not of lumber, or even fired brick, but of thick limestone rock.

It may have been a showcase in its day.

It looked, and no doubt was, solid. Those who dwelt within would have felt secure in the fiercest storm. Neighbors far and wide may have paid a visit to the farmer to study the home's construction, quiz the builder on his techniques, imagining the day when they, too, could erect such a strong and protective dwelling for their own families.



“He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.”

John 3:31

The strength and protection of earthly things are great only in respect to other things of earthly construct. But all stand in the shadow of things from above. Though his spirit may soar with the Spirit from heaven, the believer still treads the mire of this earth, so he may still be fooled into thinking that his strength may be enhanced by the strong things of his temporal home.

The word Nehemiah employs (translated “strength”) really means a fortified place, a fortress or rock. When we seek our security, our protection, in anything of this earth, we are settling for second best. When we seek to strengthen our faith by the ways and methods of this earth, we are building a counterfeit faith.



“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”

Matthew 7:24-27

Over the decades, that strong stone house ultimately proved it was not as impervious as first thought. The earth moved and the storms raged. Cracks developed, and what was once straight and true no longer was. Nothing made by man can stand against the natural forces of this earth, and stone walls that once seemed immovable, moved. A foundation that once seemed indestructible, crumbled.



“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”

John 15:10

The only way to have true, unyielding security in this world is to be wrapped securely in the love of Christ. The only way to



experience the inexpressible joy of that love is to obey the word of Christ.

Then—and only then—will we stand upon a foundation that will never crumble or crack.

Everyone who is a man of God has omnipotence as his guardian, and God will sooner empty heaven of angels than leave a saint without defence.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon