

Should such a man as I flee?

And I said, **Should such a man as I flee?** And who is there, that, being such as I, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in. ¹²

And I discerned, and, lo, God had not sent him; but he pronounced this prophecy against me: and Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

Nehemiah 6, 11

It has been such a long time since I wrote to you all. For the past one week more than anything else this above verse upheld me. So I thought I would just pass it across it to you. Nehemiah was a cupbearer to the king Artaxerxes which is a very exalted post to a Jew who is an exile in a pagan land. Despite his high position his heart was always on his own native land Jerusalem. So when Hanani came from Jerusalem he longs to hear the report from his land. When the news was bad Nehemiah breaks and cries. (God's kingdom builders always shed copious tears in private) The first chapter ends with the verse, "I WAS cupbearer to the king." His powerful post became a past tense in his life. He not only fasted and cried for his land, he acted. He went up to rebuild. He had to face insurmountable odds. Back in Jerusalem he encountered everything, ridicule, mockery, death threat and finally a false direction by a so called prophet. Nehemiah remains strong for He knew who had called him and he knew that the One who called him is faithful to accomplish what He had called him for.

Nehemiah had the discretion what to trust and what not to. Because he knew his commission came from God himself he was not threatened when a prophet prophesied that he should hide in the temple to save his life. And for this Nehemiah boldly replies, "SHOULD A MAN LIKE ME RUN AWAY?" not that he was proud but he knew who he believed and so he is not swayed by a false prophecy.

At times when God has put us in a position, we may be pressed on all sides beyond our limits and we may really feel like running away. I felt the same, I desperately wanted to flee somewhere, then I thought if I run away because of pressure, then how God's purpose can be accomplished through me. Just hold on to your posts in the wall of your watch, till the Lord changes your place of duty. Till then hang on to His Word. If God has called us He will also give us the strength to persevere despite every odds. Because the Lord has put us where we

are, let us stand and hold the fort for the battle belongs to the Lord and He will fight on our behalf.

Dear Jesus. In times of extreme desperation help us to hang on to your promises, for you are able to accomplish what you have purposed in us and where you have put us. Give us your joy which is our strength. Give us a steadfast heart and a discerning mind like Nehemiah. Amen.