

# The Power of **NEVERTHELESS**

I like to think that I know the Bible. Not as good as many but perhaps a bit better than some but still there are time when I am left speechless.

When the phone rings and the caller tells me that how I'd been praying is not how it turned out and I find myself standing next to a hospital bed or a coffin.

There are times when we don't know what to say and it feels as if we can hear the music of the enemies camp as they prophesy our defeat in song

**Psalms 13:4 (NLT) Don't let my enemies gloat, saying, "We have defeated him!" Don't let them rejoice at my downfall.**

David said, **Everyone who sees me mocks me. They give me that smug smile and shake their heads, saying, I thought you were the great man of faith and favor. You were so confident in declaring the Lord is good. If the Lord loves you so much let HIM do something about this failure of yours.**

**Psalms 13:2 (NLT) How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul, with sorrow in my heart every day? How long will my enemy have the upper hand?**

When you don't even feel like praying how can you pray long prayers? is there a single word that can shut the enemy up and give me the peace I need to regather my thoughts and confer with my own heart?

I think there is and I want to share that word with you today.

That word, that one great word is **NEVERTHELESS**.

Dr. Mark Rutland defines Nevertheless as a word bridge connecting two ideas, the first of which has no power, even if it is factual, to lessen that greater truth of the second.

**Show slide "BRIDGE"**

Nevertheless, is not a word for doubters.

It is the tool only of the completely confident, the possessors of truths that could never, ever be lessened by anyone's opinions, objectives, philosophies or countering facts.

Learn this one word and you will shut the mouths of lions, liars and haters.

# 1. The NEVERTHELESS of Jesus

In the garden our Master endured a great internal battle.

What HE had to do was beyond difficult - the sacrifice was great.

Many writers say that this is when the enemy returned to tempt HIM.

Luke 4:13 (NASB) When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

This according to many scholars was that opportune time. The pressure was unlike any other.

The struggle was real

\*I believe a struggle is a good thing, its proof you've not quit and you've not been defeated.

Matthew 26:39 (KJV) And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: **NEVERTHELESS** not as I will, but as thou wilt.

With that nevertheless the Master secured the salvation of all who would believe.

With that word Jesus moved to the higher reality.

Please listen. This word did not diminish the anguish. This word did not diminish the pressure. But it denied the anguish the power to alter, change or void the plan of God for the salvation of man.

## 2. The Nevertheless of a firm foundation

No building is stronger than its foundation.

I've seen buildings in America less than a couple years old with cracks and leaning walls - the foundation was unstable

I've seen building in Europe 500 years old plus and not a crack to be found, not a leaning wall the foundation was stable.

The enemy of life will most often go after our foundation.

The enemy seems to always focus his attack by asking two questions, both of which are foundational.

1. If you are.....
2. Did HE say.....

Sometimes the enemies arguments are better than ours.

### Show slide "Has"

The difference between conviction and confusion is the placement of the word "HAS"

For all the evidence seems to be against us.

You see, we want to believe that all the bad stuff happens to others, bad others mostly, but reality is quite different. In fact, the Bible nowhere promises us a pain-free free life of pure blessing, a life with persecution or trials.

The rain falls on the just and the unjust.

What do we say then? How can we answer when Satan laughs and mocks?

When he and his demons dance around us in our brokenhearted, benumbed grief and demand an answer? But we have none.

There is no evidence of who we are - the Beloved, Favored people of God and there seems to be even less than no evidence of what HE said in HIS great and many promises.

What is our answer when we have no answer?

2 Timothy 2:18-19 (NASB) men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some. [19] **NEVERTHELESS**, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."

NEVERTHELESS the firm foundation of God stands.

I've had people want to challenge my belief in the goodness of God with their arguments in favor of the judgements and severity of God.

And because I enjoy debate - my wife thinks I would have been a good lawyer - I used to engage them.

But I have since learned the futility of such mental exercises - and that is all that is.

They have memorized some historical facts and they are facts.

## NEVERTHELESS

I will not reduce my faith to a mere mental argument.

God's Truth is truth! You cannot change it, erode it or tear it down, nor need I defend it.

There are times when I am not equipped to do so.

NEVERTHELESS the firm foundation of God stands.

No argument, no circumstance, no soul-torturing loss can change that.

In defeat, in famine, in brokenness and in death, that one answer, is the victory.

When you stand by the bed of loved ones and watch in futility as they gasp for breath around the telltale rattle in their throat, death's mask already visible on their face, Satan will gladly stand on the other side of the bed. Oh, yes, he makes hospital calls. "Now," he will whisper, "now, what do you say? Now, what is your answer to this?"

Say it together, NEVERTHELESS

### 3. The NEVERTHELESS of the Hard Thing

2 Kings 2:9-10 (NASB) When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please, let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." [10] He said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so."

# Great rewards are always the result of hard things.

2 Kings 2:1-2 (NASB) And it came about when the LORD was about to take up Elijah by a whirlwind to heaven, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

Every prophet in the land had sensed the news - certainly Elisha knew it as well.

I don't have time to read thru the entire storyline - but the whole plot seems to be the old prophet testing the young one.

At several stops asking him to remain behind. Testing his loyalty, his willingness to adhere.

Too many people miss the great rewards of Kingdom life because they fail the test.

[2] Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here please, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

3 x the old prophet asked him to stay behind but each time the young man refused. My place is at your side and I am not abandoning my post

2 Kings 2:9-10 (NASB) When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please, let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." [10] He said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so."

It would have been easy to get distracted by the horses and the chariot, but he had to keep his eyes on the man of God - he'd asked for a hard thing.

Many times believers miss the prophetic moment because of insensitivity, dullness or distraction and ask too little.

Ask "hard things" remembering that God is pleased with faith, not intimidated by big prayers.

## 4. The Nevertheless of seeing the invisible and doing the impossible

2 Samuel 5:6-7 (NASB) Now the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, and they said to David, "You shall not come in here, but the blind and lame will turn you away"; thinking, "David cannot enter here." [7] Nevertheless, David captured the stronghold of Zion, that is the city of David.

A new day, new king would require a new capital.

**Promotion requires change / change involves conflict.**

- With every new opportunity will come both change and challenge.

Accept and embrace the inevitability of change as necessary for advancement, but wait on God's guidance.

- Rushing or reluctance may cost you equally.
- neither hurried nor hate it.

The weak and fearful look up at the looming walls of Jebus and see certain defeat.

The faith-filled see the moment of God.

Cowards mutter words of doubt and despair.

Conquerors say, "Nevertheless"

David was not mindless of the reality before him. Jebus was there, was obviously unbeatable, easily defended even by the blind and lame.

Denial is not, as some have thought, the same as faith.

Catalog the strengths of Jebus.

List the reasons that it cannot fall.

Go on; be real.

Then having done so, say the word that conquers the unconquerable.

## NEVERTHELESS

In any great undertaking there will always be Job's friends to tell you what is impossible, impractical and that this, whatever it is, will be the death of you.

It may or may not even be genuine concern for your well-being.

### **JEALOUSY, ENVY AND HIDDEN AGENDAS CAN TURN CONCERNED ASSOCIATES INTO ANGRY OBSTRUCTIONISTS.**

There will always be someone at your side to tell you how unachievable your dream is.

Such voices of discouragement are cheap. Why give them any value?

Wise counsel that helps you analyze costs, risks and potential return is valuable, but weak and jealous little people whose own dreams have died want nothing more than to kill yours.

**Nehemiah 4:8-9 (NLT) They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion. [9] But [NEVERTHELESS] we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.**

You may feel as if you are surrounded by angry critics who, having seen their own dreams die, despise yours?

Your one-word way to victory is a path of faith and confidence. Make your prayer to your God, and then keep standing, fighting, believing.

The City of God's choosing was impossible to conquer

Nevertheless Jebus (as it was called) was no more and Jerusalem was a reality.

## **5. The NeverTheLess of Obedience.**

Peter and crew had been fishing all night - that is when fishermen caught fish.

The ended their work day in the morning, because that's when the fish dove deep and nothing could be caught in the nets.

He was tired, frustrated, disappointed and wanted nothing more than to end his day and go home.

Luke 5:3-4 (TPT) Jesus climbed into the boat belonging to Simon Peter and asked him, "Let me use your boat. Push it off a short distance away from the shore so I can speak to the crowds." [4] Jesus sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished, he said to Peter, "Now row out to deep water to cast your nets and you will have a great catch."

I'm gonna guess that Peter thought to himself, you are certainly a gifted teacher but you know nothing about fishing.

Luke 5:5 (KJV) And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

Have you ever been asked to do something that you would rather not do

- Maybe it was inconvenient
- Maybe it wasn't "your calling"
- Maybe it made no sense
- Maybe you just really didn't want to do it

We often have this illusion that all obedience must joyful, cheery and happy

Matthew 21:28-32 (TPT) Jesus said to his critics, "Tell me what you think of this parable: "There once was a man with two sons. The father came to the first and said, 'Son, I want you to go and work in the vineyard today.' [29] The son replied, 'I'd rather not.' But afterward, he deeply regretted what he said to his father, changed his mind, and decided to go to the vineyard. [30] The father approached the second son and said the same thing to him. The son replied, 'Father, I will go and do as you said.' But he never did—he didn't go to the vineyard. [31] Tell me now, which of these two sons did the will of his father?" They answered him, "The first one." Jesus said, "You're right. For many sinners, tax collectors, and prostitutes are going into God's kingdom realm ahead of you!

The nevertheless of obedience unlocks more miracles than we can imagine.

The bridge between our discouragement and God's will is nevertheless, and on the other side are the bulging nets of His bounty.

The ultimate responsibility for outcome is not mine-but His. My responsibility is to intentionally place back in His hands all that He puts in mine.

And I do that by saying this simple yet unusual word

NEVERTHELESS.