

LESSONS FROM NEHEMIAH



The story of Nehemiah has been resonating with me, particularly chapter four. Nehemiah is burdened by the state of the city of Jerusalem, and seeks to rebuild the wall so the Israelites will no longer be humiliated. Nehemiah prays every step of the way and the Lord gives him favor with the king to take a leave to do this project.

Nehemiah is also given the materials needed to rebuild the wall. He gets back to Jerusalem, does an assessment of the damage and galvanizes others to participate in rebuilding the wall.

It's not an easy task but everyone has their assignments and the work is getting done. The enemies of the Israelites start to mock their effort to accomplish such a large task. They then threaten to attack the people to disrupt their work.

Maybe you find yourself in the same place: God has placed in you a burden to do something like write a book, change careers, start a ministry or a new business. Or maybe the Lord is pointing out some areas in your life that need addressing: managing finances or maintaining your purity. Whatever it is, just know that you will experience resistance from the enemy. The way Nehemiah handled his opposition is an example for us.

Pray continuously

As you read the book of Nehemiah, you'll notice that before he did anything he prayed. When the king asked him what was bothering him, he prayed before

responding. When he heard his enemies mocking him and planning to attack, he prayed.

Put your mind to it

Nehemiah and the people were getting the job done because they had a mind to work (Nehemiah 4:5 NASB). Put your mind in gear and it will take you further than your feelings will. Especially when opposition comes to disrupt you and don't feel like going on.

Knuckle Up

When the people were getting scared because of the threats around them Nehemiah was strategic. In the low places and the spots where there were gaps in the wall, Nehemiah placed armed guards and families armed with weapons to fight. The workers continued while others watched their back. Nehemiah also instructed the people to run to help fight if they heard the trumpet sound.

Pay attention to the weak spots in your life, areas where you are exposed, things you fear and struggle with. This is where the enemy will attempt to cause disturbance. Be on alert and armed with the Word to fight back. Get your praying friends and family to surround you and lift you up as you continue working on what God called you to do.

Nehemiah continued to face opposition and his enemies tried other ways to take him down, but he was discerning and saw through their schemes. After persevering through it all the wall was complete!

"When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God." Nehemiah 6:16 NLT

Just like Nehemiah you and I can be victorious and accomplish what God has called us to do, with His help and for His glory.
