

NEHEMIAH'S WALLS AND OUR WALLS

By Roy Goodlet

The book of Nehemiah is a must read for all Christians. It is a book that helped bring me out of the tentacles of impending depression. This book has also guaranteed me a certain victory.

In chapter one Nehemiah learned that his beloved city of Jerusalem was in sad shape since the days it had been attacked and captured. Nehemiah was ready to be the person that God would use to restore the wall of his beloved city of Jerusalem. In chapter two Nehemiah boldly asked the king, where he was captive, if he could return to Jerusalem and rebuild it. His request was actually granted, and he received even more than he had hoped for. In Jerusalem he met with the city officials and told them of his dream and his plan and how God had blessed him.

In chapter three the work began. This chapter is the perfect example of how a church family works together. If you look at a map of the city of Jerusalem, you will notice they were working around the city wall side-by-side, beginning with the Sheep Gate and ending with the Sheep Gate. The people were ready to work. They just needed a vision and someone to say, "Let's do it!" This is God's plan for the church. You use your God given gifts, and I will use mine, and with God's help, there will be nothing that will stop us from building the walls of the kingdom.

Chapter four is all about the opposition, and the sad thing about the opposition is that it slows the work down, and you have to take time to deal with it. Now, half of the workers had to be ready to fight off the opposition, but the problems were not just with those who opposed the rebuilding of the wall, but also from within themselves. Opposition from outside the kingdom is hard to deal with, but when it is from within, it is sad.

With all that had happened you might think that this wall would never get rebuilt. Or, even if it did it would take forever, and the people would be totally discouraged, and just a few people would still be faithful enough to get it done. Not so! Nehemiah 6:15-16, "So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God." Although they had to be aware of the opposition, they kept their eyes on their goal.

You may be wondering how vision will help grow God's kingdom. I believe that whenever we step out on faith for God, whether as a church family or as an individual temple of God, God will still bless us, but sitting back and doing nothing is not acceptable with God and will not accomplish anything.

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