

Never Quit.

Nehemiah : Lesson 4 of 6 : MANUP.org

1. Fight ACCUSATION with PRAYER.

Nehemiah 4:1-5

¹ Sandballat was very angry when he learned that they were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, saying... ² “What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they’re doing? Do they think they can build the wall in a single day by just offering a few sacrifices? Do they actually think they can make something of stones from a rubbish heap - and charred ones at that.” ⁴ Then I PRAYED - “Hear us, our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads, and may they themselves become captives in a foreign land! ⁵ Do not ignore their guilt. Do not blot out their sins, for they have provoked you to anger in front of the builders.”

Prayer of Devotion: God, I release to you . . .

2. Fight OPPOSITION with ACTION.

Nehemiah 4:6-9

⁶ At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm. ⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the work was going ahead and that the gaps in the wall of Jerusalem were being repaired, they were furious. ⁸ They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion. ⁹ But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.

Q: What action do you need to add to your prayers?

3. Fight EXHAUSTION with VISION.

Nehemiah 4:10-14

¹⁰ Then the people of Judah began to complain, “The workers are getting tired, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves.” ¹¹ Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, “Before they know what’s happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work.” ¹² The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, “They will come from all directions and attack us!” ¹³ So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows. ¹⁴ Then as I looked over the situation, I said to them, “Don’t be afraid of the enemy! *Remember the Lord*, who is great and glorious, and *fight for your brothers*, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!”

Q: What’s making you tired right now?

Q: What God-given VISION are you fighting for?

4. Fight ISOLATION with COMMUNITY.

Nehemiah 4:15-20

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that we knew of their plans and that God had frustrated them, we all returned to our work on the wall. ¹⁶⁻¹⁷ But from then on, only half my men worked while the other half stood guard with spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. The leaders stationed themselves behind the people of Judah who were building the wall. The laborers carried on their work with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon. ¹⁸ All the builders had a sword belted to their side. The trumpeter stayed with me to sound the alarm. ¹⁹ Then I explained to the nobles and officials and all the people, “The work is very spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. ²⁰ *When you hear the blast of the trumpet, rush to wherever it is sounding.* Then our God will fight for us.”

Q: Who's standing guard for you?

Q: Who are you standing guard for?

5. Fight DIVISION with CONFRONTATION.

Nehemiah 5:1-11

¹ About this time some of the men and their wives raised a cry of protest against their fellow Jews. ² They were saying, "We have such large families. We need more food to survive." ³ Others said, "We have mortgaged our fields, vineyards, and homes to get food during the famine." ⁴ And others said, "We have had to borrow money on our fields and vineyards to pay our taxes. ⁵ We belong to the same family as those who are wealthy, and our children are just like theirs. Yet we must sell our children into slavery just to get enough money to live. We have already sold some of our daughters, and we are helpless to do anything about it, for our fields and vineyards are already mortgaged to others."

⁶ When I heard their complaints, I was very angry. ⁷ After thinking it over, I spoke out against these nobles and officials. I told them, "You are hurting your own relatives by charging interest when they borrow money!" *Then I called a public meeting to DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.*

⁹ Then I pressed further, "What you are doing is not right! Should you not walk in the fear of our God in order to avoid being mocked by enemy nations? ¹¹ You must restore their fields, vineyards, olive groves, and homes to them this very day. And repay the interest you charged when you lent them money, grain, new wine, and olive oil."

Q: What division have you been ignoring?

Q: Are you ready to *DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM*?

6. Fight DISTRACTION with DEVOTION.

Nehemiah 5:14-19

¹⁴ For the entire twelve years that I was governor of Judah... - neither I nor my officials drew on our official food allowance.
¹⁵ The former governors, in contrast, had laid heavy burdens on the people, demanding a daily ration of food and wine, besides forty pieces of silver. Even their assistants took advantage of the people. But because I feared God, I did not act that way. ¹⁶ *I also devoted myself to working on the wall and refused to acquire any land.* And I required all my servants to spend time working on the wall. ¹⁷ I asked for nothing... ¹⁸ I refused to claim the governor's food allowance because the people already carried a heavy burden. ¹⁹ Remember, O my God, all that I have done for these people, and bless me for it.

Prayer of Devotion: God, with your help, I will . . .

7. Fight TEMPTATION with MISSION.

Nehemiah 6:1-9

¹ Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem, and the rest of our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained - though we had not yet set the doors in the gates. ² They sent a message asking to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me. ³ So I replied by sending this message to them: *"I am doing a great work and I can't come down.* Why should I stop working to meet with you?" ⁴ Four times times they sent the same message, and each time I gave them the same reply . . . ⁹ They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work. So I continued the work with even greater determination.

*"I'm doing a GREAT work
and I CAN'T come down!"*