



CHAPTER FIVE

Nehemiah Rebuilds

I encourage you to study chapter three of Nehemiah.

NEHEMIAH LESSON OVERVIEW

- We must build walls around our lives to protect God's interest.
- You cannot rebuild what you don't believe has fallen.
- Neglecting your heart's condition leaves an open door for the enemy.
- Having and releasing the heart of God releases you in your journey.
- Discovering the "marks" of the competent leader (Jesus Christ) within you. If you do not have the life of Christ within you, then this point becomes mute.
- Bath your rebuilding in prayer.

THE WALLS OF OUR LIVES

God appears to reference the walls of our lives frequently in the Word. One of my cherished scriptures is found in Isaiah.

"Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me. Your builders hurry; Your destroyers and devastators Will depart from you." Isaiah 49:15-17

Before we move on, let's contemplate just a little bit on this passage. First, God cares so much about our lives that He inscribes our names on the palms of His hands. He puts Himself, God the Father, as the primary Parent figure in our lives. Secondly, He sees the walls in our lives are just as important as the walls of Jerusalem.

At this point in our study, we should understand how important it is to keep the walls of Jerusalem repaired and strong. In this, God sends Nehemiah to conduct his business of rebuilding the most important walls in the world.

The walls of our lives often lie in ruins through neglect, rebellion, and ignorance. Without question, the Leader ordained in our lives is none other than the Holy Spirit through the indwelling life of Jesus Christ. The Spirit accomplishes the Lord's mission through the continuing work of reconstructing His protective walls from the inside out. The Spirit's first thing is to bring to our attention the condition of our walls. While most of us don't hear what He is saying, some are ignorant of hearing the voice of God from within, while others simply dig in deep and rebel.

FACING THE FACTS

Most Christians today live in the walls of their lives surrounded by ruin, and it all began in a slow fade. Few are taught how to discern the voice of the Spirit from that of the self-life. Others are protesting the mandates of God in remaining secure within His boundaries. It all starts with a crack—a particular sin or bitterness that begins to rule one’s life. After the daily abuse from life itself, the crack turns into a hole in the wall, which creates a perfect opportunity for the enemy to enter our lives. Satan sends one of his demons to gain access to create a spiritual stronghold. If further neglect becomes the norm for this believer, the weeds of carnal thinking begin to align with the enemy’s thoughts and ideations. All are a result of hearing the voice of the enemy over that of the indwelling Spirit. Now idolatry is formed. The enemy not only gains access into your life but he is assured that the believer hears his voice, which many believers label as the voice of God. It is in this that Satan assaults the Living God. Plus, the believer begins living demonic by doctrines.

You may be known for being a good Christian, but this does not guarantee that you are one. People who follow Christian principles are not necessarily authentic believers who are indwelt by the Life of Christ. These so-called believers are the ones who put Satan’s words in God’s mouth. Thus, why Jesus must spit them out of His mouth, according to Revelation chapter three.

The parallel is simple. Most of the Jews during Nehemiah’s leadership were pure bloodline Jews. However, few practiced Judaism. To make them authentic obedient Jews, the two must join as one force. The same is true about Christianity. Believers must not only claim Christianity, but they must fulfill the second most important doctrine: be born-again and filled with the Holy Spirit.

DO AN INVENTORY

Conduct an inventory of your true condition, including, whether you are authentically born-again, by and through Jesus Christ.

Before Nehemiah started his rebuilding, he evaluated the wall and did an inventory of its condition.

Many Christians tend to make light of the mandates of God. As our norm proves today, many hide behind the bush of Grace. Paul once said, *“Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?”* Then he went on to say, *“May it never be!”* Sad to say, we live in a church culture where Paul’s fear has become the norm. Today, grace is used as a license to tear down the walls of God while worshipping the gods of Babylon. When caught, each one hides behind the rationalization that *“we are all sinners,”* and *“I am better than I use to be.”* If this is your mindset, the enemy is living in your camp. Your walls are down.

LEADERS OF RECONSTRUCTION

Nehemiah’s consistent concern and focus was reconstruction. However, he wasn’t focused on self-strength but rather the strength of the Lord through prayer. He prayed for guidance and correction of his pathway. As for me, busyness is the constant enemy of fulfilling the Lord’s commission to pray always. If anyone can say there isn’t enough time in the day to pray, well, it would be me. However, the older I get the more dependent I become on praying without ceasing. I have learned to request the Lord’s direction—that the supernatural thoughts of Christ be revealed in my frail mind with a clear direction on every project.

Nehemiah was known for leading from the knees up. I, too, want to be known for the same practical application of quality leadership. I am alert to the reality that erosion is a constant battle within the souls of humanity. Little by little, bit by bit, we allow the enemy to enter holes in the walls of our lives—to one day misled the Bridal member of Christ to melt into a lukewarm community of “believers.” Without prayer and dependence on Jesus, erosion of the soul is inevitable. Neglect the heart or soul, and the life of crumbled walls will soon be overrun by the world, our flesh, and the chaos the enemy has planned for us.

Fact: Don't just repent, rebuild.

Many people repent on a normal, natural, and neutral basis, but that repentance requires rebuilding within our lives. This is a step that many believers today simply ignore. Authentic repentance requires rebuilding. Preserving existing walls will assist you in the encouragement needed to conduct the hard work of rebuilding.

LIVING WITHOUT THE BODY OF CHRIST

We need each other. Since God placed a measurement of spiritual gifts within all His born-again believers, uniting those gifts as one force will ultimately create a workforce to rebuild the walls of the Church itself. We all need to stop making excuses as to “why” we don't partner with other real-deal believers, which usually hides behind the erroneous ideology of our not enjoying being told what to do. Independent “Christians” are either selfish believers, or they aren't authentic Christians to start with.

Nehemiah appealed not only to the Jewish leaders, but he empowered the Jews who were marginal, and he used the work ethic to accomplish this. The result: the real-deal Jews woke up. The marginal Jews were won over by the structure, which Nehemiah put in place through Ezra. In the end, a revival of sorts broke out and Jerusalem was restored to the norm of God.

PRIMARY PRINCIPLES OF OUR LESSON

1. **WALLS:** Maintain God's importance of walling up your life.

Do you remember the story back in Job when Satan was appealing to God to destroy Job? After God responded to him, Satan again said he could not reach him because of a hedge of protection that God had put about him. What did God do? He dropped the hedge. The reason why this is a significant point is that Satan can't even get at us. God puts these walls around us—these hedges of protection, and then if he can get at us, we need to understand that the sovereignty of God has allowed it.

2. **FACTS:** Own up to the reality of your broken-down walls.

Most Christians go through their day without taking a single moment to examine the walls that are around them, which now have holes within them. As I stated earlier, these holes in the walls are a result of the erosion of allowing the enemy to infiltrate our minds. Most of the time we are the ones responsible for tearing down the walls that God built up to protect us.

3. **INVENTORY:** Be willing to self-examine the condition of your soul.

Paul himself even said that. He said, “*examine yourselves to see if you are in the faith.*” There is a responsibility given to us that is oftentimes ignored, and that is self-examination.

4. **PRAYER:** Reject independence. Rebuild from the knees up.

This is such a critical point. In our next chapter, I will devote the entire chapter to talking about the power God releases through a dedicated commitment to communicating with Him.

FINAL NOTE

One of my favorite men of church history is A.W. Tozer, who said these words: *“Every farmer knows the hunger of the wilderness. The hunger, which no modern farm machinery, no improved agricultural methods can quite destroy. No matter how well prepared the soil, how well-kept the fences, how carefully painted the buildings, let the owner neglect for a while his prized and valued acres and they will again revert to the wilds and be swallowed by the jungle or the wasteland. The bias of nature is toward the wilderness, never toward the fruitful field.”*

Whatever is left to itself will return to the state upon which it was before redemption. In Tozer’s illustration, that would be those fields, lush and willing to produce fruit for the farmer, but if left unattended, they will revert to the same condition before the farmer began to till the land. The same is the case for us Christians—we will return to flesh on flesh.

The Christian mind must be renewed daily—all day. When left to itself, the self will dominate and rule. Yes, even an authentic born-again Christian can erode into a liberal and lukewarm mind—a mind that functions like an unsaved person. So, what’s the answer? Release Christ’s mind from within. You and I can never trust our minds. They are self-governed, self-willed, and driven to be independent. Having Christ’s mind in you is not a poetic expression; it is a fact. By learning to release His mind, your mind will fade into the dark corners of depravity where it belongs.