

- **This Wednesday Communion Thanksgiving Service 6:30 p.m. in the glass Chapel**
- **Thanks to those who worked Community Food bank with Hands & Feet yesterday & Thanks for those who rode with Full Throttle to Mesa to Support New Beginnings Church**
- **Your generous offering for Red Rock Village Church!! Total given so far is \$3,136.99**
- **Full Throttle Prayer Ride to Red Rock December 5 – EVERYONE welcome (*Text or Email me if you plan to go 520-405-6929 or pd@cfftucson.com*)**

Living the Faith

- **Are you spending at least 5 minutes per day reading the Bible? (listening on CD/Online?)**
Reading Schedule at the Welcome table.
- **Have you shared your Conversion story/or a God Story?**
- **Are you hearing what the Spirit is saying?**
- **Did you spend some alone time with God this week? (No agenda, no bible, no music, no journal, etc.)**

Nehemiah

- **Nehemiah had prayed & fasted asking for God to honor His promises & to grant him favor before King Artaxerxes**
- **He then asked the King for letters to pass to Jerusalem, give him the goods needed to rebuild the city walls and his own house.**
- **The king gives him more than he asked!**
- **Immediately opposition arose!**
- **Nehemiah shares the vision – the people are excited to start and the enemy rises up again in opposition.**

Nehemiah 3

Rebuilding the Wall

- **Nehemiah has EVERY family and people take a section of the wall...**

[Neh. 3] 1 Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred,... **2** The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zakkur son of Imri built next to them. (*and so on*)

Rebuilding the Wall

- **As everyone focuses on their work and begins the project starts to move along and there is evidence of change!**
- **When the work starts to take shape – the opposition rises up again (see a pattern?)**

[Neh. 4:1-3] 1 When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, **2** and in the presence of his associates and the army of

Nehemiah 4:1-3

...Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?” **3** **Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!**

- Prior to this we have heard 3 names... now an army is involved in the opposition!**

Opposition will ALWAYS arise in a work of God!

- **There is ALSO a pattern that is seen from Nehemiah in the face of opposition: PRAYER!**
[Nehemiah 4] 4 Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. 5 Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.
- **Aggressive prayer against the opposition!**

[Nehemiah 4] 6 So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

- To this point prayer alone had stopped the opposition no further action was needed.

[Nehemiah 4] 7 But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. **8** They all plotted together...

...to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.

- The opposition is growing and it now turns to more than words!**
- What is the response of Nehemiah and the people?**

...⁹ But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

- Notice there is not just prayer but action taken themselves as well!!**

[Nehemiah 4] 10 Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.” (It was half up by now!!!)

11 Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.”

12 Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”

- Growing Discouragement as the opposition comes from multiple directions, the workers are tired - notice where the discouraging words come from: the people of Judah & their fellow Jews are the one's speaking all 3 of these discouraging messages!

v10 Meanwhile, the people in Judah said...v11

Also... v12 the Jews who lived near came and told...

- It's not hard to see & speak about the problems or point out the opposition! Naysayers (within) are always present in a work of God!**

Nehemiah 4:13-14

13 Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.

- Can we see where we are weak - where we need protection the most?**

14 After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.”

- **With all the threats and growing opposition there has not been 1 instance where the people had to engage the enemy!**
- **Yes, they were prepared with their weapons etc. but they simply had to take a stand – prepared and ready but in each case the enemy has only threatened with words and attempted intimidation!**
- **How often do we stop God's work because of discouraging words?!**

Nehemiah 4:15-23

15 When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work. 16 From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah 17 who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, 18 and each of the builders

wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me. 19 Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. 20 Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!” 21 So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. 22 At that time I also said to

the people, “Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day.” 23

Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

- Daily impact of the work of God - ALWAYS ready for battle and willing to step in wherever needed!!!**
- We will ALWAYS win if we Trust in God!**

Action Steps for Battle!

- **We must recognize the fight is raging for our families-our city-our state-& our country!**
 - 1. Be in Prayer (ALWAYS the first step!!!)**
 - 2. Be Ready to step in wherever needed to complete the work of God! (servant heart)**
 - 3. Be Encouraged! (Don't let the opposition get you down with their threats, don't listen to the naysayers that are working near you and Don't be afraid to take a stand for the Lord!)**