

Broken Walls: Lessons in wall repair from the book of Nehemiah

1. Turn to God as the source of help (Neh 1:1-11)

“Where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.” Ps 121:1-2 NIV
Before we attempt to rebuild any walls, we must turn to God for his help because it will not happen in our own strength or through our own resources.

2. Confess sin (Neh 1:1-11)

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:8-9 NIV

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” James 5:15-16 NIV
Confession is necessary for purification and healing.

3. Gather necessary support (Neh 2:1-9, 11-13)

Nehemiah is that he did not attempt to begin rebuilding the walls on his own. He asked for the King support in the form of letters, resources of timber, and protection. He recognized it would require resources that he didn't have and the support of others, and so he reached out.

4. Inspect the walls and assess the damage (Neh 2:16-20)

Nehemiah took time to figure out where the broken down spots were in the walls and where the work needed to be done. This is a critical next step because we cannot repair what we have not identified as broken.

5. Anticipate opposition (Neh 4:16-18)

There was a reason that we find Nehemiah sneaking around at night - he was expecting opposition. Our enemy doesn't like when we begin to repair the broken walls. Our enemy prefers for us to remain in an exposed position. We must be prepared for opposition.

6. Arm yourself (Neh 6:1-4)

“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Eph 6:10-18 NIV

7. Be alert for traps of the enemy (Neh 6:1-4)

Rebuilding the walls, repairing our broken down places protects us from our enemy. A protected believer is a safe believer and a free believer. This is what we have been created for: Gal 5:1 says, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.”

“Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; You will be called Repairer of Broken Walls” Isaiah 58:12 NIV

Questions for discussion:

What do you think you might need to begin rebuilding your walls? Who do you need to invite to come alongside you and provide the necessary wisdom and counsel required? A mentor, a counselor, a support group... What support do you need to gather?

As you inspect your own walls, where do you see spots that need repair? Do you have wounds that you've never attended to? Are you dealing with a shaky foundation due to poor examples in your past: parents who modeled unhealthy patterns of relating, or unhealthy patterns of spending, or unhealthy patterns of eating, or anything? Or perhaps someone in your life has lied to you – has filled your head with words about who you are and what you can do - words that are not true, and words that are in direct opposition to what God says about you. Where are the broken spots in your wall?

Are you prepared for opposition? Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and discuss what it might look like in your life for you to “put on” the armor of God.

How are you making time to equip yourself with truth?

The word alerts us to many traps of the enemy – idols of others, the sin of others, proud men, our own foolish tongue, riches, fear of man, pride and disgrace/shame. Which are most likely to trap you? Where do you see yourself as most susceptible?

1 Cor 10:12-13 says:

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

What hope does this give to those who are being tempted or actively struggling with sin?

How had God spoken to you through this time together this morning? What do you feel He is calling you to do? Prepare to ask Him for help with this, remembering, “The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.” 1 Thess 5:24 NIV

Read Ps 143:3, 7-9:

The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground;
he makes me dwell in darkness...

Answer me quickly, O LORD; my spirit fails.

Do not hide your face from me
or I will be like those who go down to the pit.

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.

Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD, for I hide myself in you.

Prayer: Invite God to shine His light into the darkest places of your heart, and to lead you in the way you should go... in the path of freedom, healing, and restoration. Ask Him specifically for what you need.