

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE CHURCH

Hag 1:14 So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

It's all about **WORK**.

Hag 2:4 'But now take courage, Zerubbabel,' declares the LORD, 'take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,' declares the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,' declares the LORD of hosts.

Take courage and work. The work needs to be done and enemies are all around. The Spirit of God is with us and God is with us. His peace is with us. Work is essential.

Joh 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.

If we want to see God's word fulfilled, there's a lot of work to do. To do God's will, it is about the work that we must do and the work that is accomplished.

There's a lot of work involved in building a house. A lot of us have delights and enjoy the beauty but a lot of work is involved. If we are not ready for the work, it is suffering. But if we are ready for the work, the work will be a joy. Taking care of a baby is hard work and if we are not ready and mentally not prepared, it will be a suffering. There's a lot of work involved and it is not easy.

Great dreams cannot be established until we have learned to work and have the mind to work. Don't let the work be stopped by selfish people. We must have people who can finish the work.

When the church becomes a church without walls, the church can become vulnerable and easily attacked by the enemy. That's why we have to be on guard all the time.

There are many great things we can do for Him but the attitude to work and put our hands on the plow and not turn back is a character, not an inspiration. A lot of people want to start but cannot finish.

Neh 4:1 *Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews.*

1. Information of the work must not be given to all except those with the mind to work

When the enemy hears that we are prospering, they can get angry. When good information goes to the wrong people, it brings wrong reactions to the wrong people. When we give information to wrong people, they can construct wrong opinions and can cause disaster.

Guard all information and guard all the words that come out from our mouth. Be responsible for all the words that come out from our mouth.

2. Make sure money politics does not rise in the work

Neh 4:2 *He spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy men of Samaria and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?"*

The wealthy people in Samaria are angry and formed an alliance with Sanbalat. Money reveals us and who we are is expressed through money. In the world people use money to rise up in power. This must not happen in the church and we must never use money to take control of the work.

3. Intimidation from people who are stronger in personality can destroy the work

People who are strong in character pushes their way and in the end can cause the work to stop.

Neh 4:4 Hear, O our God, how we are despised! Return their reproach on their own heads and give them up for plunder in a land of captivity.

Neh 4:5 Do not forgive their iniquity and let not their sin be blotted out before You, for they have demoralized the builders.

We must make sure we know how to guard the work. A lot of churches started the work but cannot finish it. There are great ideas and great plans but when the people that come in are wrong, the enemy can come in to destroy the work. The work is more important than the worker. God is not the respecter of people. If we don't rise, someone else will rise. If we are angry in the work, we can be dropped off and God will raise up another person.

Strong personality who uses strong words can discourage people and demoralize people. Whenever we hear any information from anybody from anywhere, check it first and clean it up first and verify.

Demoralized people must be protected.

4. We must develop people who have the mind to work

Neh 4:6 So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

If we want to do God's will, we want to do the work well and in completion. God is going to open the door and so much work is going to be given. We must have the right attitude. See what God sees and feel what God feels.

5. Break the conspiracy against the work

Neh 4:8 All of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it.

The worst form of relationship is when people conspire together against one. This is demonic. If we talk bad about somebody and even if that person is wrong or made a mistake, God will still protect the person because God will not allow us to harm somebody. Don't attack anybody. If they are wrong, God will deal with them. If they are right God will vindicate them. If they need to change, they will change.

Guard the work and break the conspiracy against the work. When we go into the world to work, we will be tested on money, time, value system and everything that is in our life. That's why God has to guard us.

We need men who will do the work and bring in rest.

6. The strength of prayer is a powerful force that can guard the work

This is so that we can solve the problems and issues in the spirit. Prayer undergirds the work. Whenever people are in trouble, there are spirits involved. It is not just demonic spirits, but anger, doubts, etc. Prayer will help clean up the atmosphere. Worship allows us to clean up the atmosphere.

7. We must have the power to finish what we start

The work must be brought to completion. Every trial is a good thing because it will drive us back to God. When we have a problem, don't be afraid but rejoice in the trial.

Neh 4:9 But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set up a guard against them day and night.

Neh 4:10 Thus in Judah it was said, "The strength of the burden bearers is failing, Yet there is much rubbish; And we ourselves are unable To rebuild the wall."

When negative things happen, we have an opportunity to go back to God's Presence.

Homework: Read the whole Chapter 4 of Nehemiah and mark the word "WORK".