

The image features a stone wall in the foreground, with a cloudy sky in the background. The text 'REBUILDING THE WALLS' is overlaid on the image. 'REBUILDING' is in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. 'THE' is in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. 'WALLS' is in a large, bold, red, serif font with a slight shadow effect.

REBUILDING
THE
WALLS

1. THERE WILL BE PERSECUTION

- ▶ Nehemiah 4 (AMP)
- ▶ But when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious, completely enraged, and he **ridiculed** the Jews.
- ▶ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake," (Matt. 5:10).
- ▶ Paul said, all who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:12).

1. THERE WILL BE PERSECUTION

- ▶ ² ... “What are these **feeble** Jews doing? Can they restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the heaps of dust *and* rubbish, even the ones that have been burned?”
- ▶ ³ Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Even what they are building—if a fox should get up on it, he would break down their stone wall.”

1. THERE WILL BE PERSECUTION

▶ 1 Peter 5:8 ESV

- ▶ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a **roaring lion**, seeking someone to devour.

▶ 1 Peter 5:8 AMP

- ▶ Be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined], be alert *and* cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a **roaring lion** [fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour.

2. REMEMBER TO PRAY

- ▶ ⁴ [And Nehemiah prayed] ...
- ▶ (Nehemiah knew exactly what his weapons were, and one of his strongest and most readily available weapon was prayer)

3. BE COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE

- ▶ ⁶So we built the wall and **the entire wall was joined together** to half its *height*, **for the people had a heart to work**.

3. BE COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE

- ▶ They had the desire and determination to rebuild the wall;
- ▶ They were prepared to make the necessary sacrifices for it;
- ▶ They worked in shifts, and when it was not their turn to work, instead of taking a lunch break or having 40 winks;
- ▶ They took up arms and kept watch for signs of any enemy attacks;
- ▶ They sacrificed their comfort;
- ▶ They stayed overnight instead of going home to sleep in their warm beds;
- ▶ They did not change their clothes, except to wash them.
- ▶ They kept their weapons on them at all times.

4. WORK, WATCH & PRAY IN UNITY

➤ NEHEMIAH 4:7-9

➤ ⁷ BUT WHEN SANBALLAT, TOBIAH, THE ARABS, THE AMMONITES, AND THE ASHDODITES HEARD THAT THE REPAIR OF THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM WENT ON, AND THAT THE BREACHES WERE BEING CLOSED, THEY WERE VERY ANGRY. ⁸ THEY ALL CONSPIRED TOGETHER TO COME AND TO FIGHT AGAINST JERUSALEM, AND TO CAUSE A DISTURBANCE IN IT.

➤ ⁹ BUT WE PRAYED TO OUR GOD ...

➤ NEHEMIAH 4:7-9

AND BECAUSE OF THEM WE SET UP A GUARD AGAINST THEM DAY AND NIGHT.

4. WORK, WATCH & PRAY IN UNITY

➤ **MATT. 26:41**

"WATCH AND PRAY, LEST YOU ENTER INTO TEMPTATION. THE SPIRIT INDEED IS WILLING, BUT THE FLESH IS WEAK."

MARK 13:33

"TAKE HEED, WATCH AND PRAY; FOR YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN THE TIME IS."

LUKE 21:36

"WATCH THEREFORE, AND PRAY ALWAYS THAT YOU MAY BE COUNTED WORTHY TO ESCAPE ALL THESE THINGS THAT WILL COME TO PASS, AND TO STAND BEFORE THE SON OF MAN."

5. SPEAK FAITH TO OVERCOME FEAR

NEHEMIAH 4:10-14

¹⁰ THEN [THE LEADERS OF] JUDAH SAID,

“THE STRENGTH OF THE BURDEN BEARERS IS FAILING, AND THERE IS MUCH RUBBLE; WE OURSELVES ARE UNABLE TO REBUILD THE WALL.”

¹¹ OUR ENEMIES SAID, “THEY WILL NOT KNOW OR SEE US UNTIL WE ARE AMONG THEM, KILL THEM AND PUT A STOP TO THE WORK.” ¹² WHEN THE JEWS WHO LIVED NEAR THEM CAME, THEY SAID TO US TEN TIMES (REPEATEDLY), “FROM EVERY PLACE YOU TURN, THEY WILL COME UP AGAINST US.”

¹³ SO I STATIONED ARMED MEN BEHIND THE WALL IN THE LOWEST PLACES, AT THE OPEN POSITIONS [WHERE IT WAS LEAST PROTECTED]; AND I STATIONED THE PEOPLE IN FAMILIES WITH THEIR SWORDS, SPEARS, AND BOWS.

5. SPEAK FAITH TO OVERCOME FEAR

¹⁴ **WHEN I SAW THEIR FEAR**, I STOOD AND SAID TO THE NOBLES AND OFFICIALS AND THE REST OF THE PEOPLE: **“DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THEM; [CONFIDENTLY] REMEMBER THE LORD WHO IS GREAT AND AWESOME, AND [WITH COURAGE FROM HIM] FIGHT FOR YOUR BROTHERS, YOUR SONS, YOUR DAUGHTERS, YOUR WIVES, AND FOR YOUR HOMES.”**

6. KNOW WHO IS BUILDING

- ▶ 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)
- ▶ ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and **build each other up**, just as in fact you are doing.
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 14:26 New International Version (NIV)
- ▶ Good Order in Worship
- ▶ ²⁶ What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that **the church may be built up**.

6. KNOW WHO IS BUILDING

- ▶ Psalm 127 English Standard Version (ESV)
- ▶ Unless **the LORD Builds** the House
- ▶ A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon.
- ▶ 127 **Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.**
- ▶ Jesus said: **“I will build My church, and gates of hell will not prevail against it”**
- ▶ God is building His church and in the same way that we are co-heirs with Jesus we are also co-laborers with God in building His Kingdom.
- ▶
- ▶ **What does it mean to follow God’s architectural design for our lives?**
- ▶ **Can more than one plan co-exist for the same one structure?**
- ▶ There are many laborers but only one Foreman. There are many ideas but only one vision, there are many designs but only one chief architect who has the approved plan that we must all build according to.

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