

Rebuilding Hope, Part 5: Discovering Truth

Nehemiah 6:1-9 ESV

Pastor Brian Uyeda, September 5 & 6, 2026

Question: How do we know what's true in a world that blurs the lines?

¹ Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), ² Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm. ³ And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" ⁴ And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner. - Nehemiah 6:1-4

1. We learn to _____ before we trust. [Nehemiah 6:2]

What is discernment?

Spiritual Discernment is recognizing God's truth in the midst of what is false.

¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. - Hebrews 5:14

⁸ Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. – Colossians 2:8 NLT

Live it out!

Q: What voices are shaping what I believe right now and do they have any alignment to God's truth?

⁵ In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. ⁶ In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Geshem also says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall. And according to these reports you wish to become their king. ⁷ And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, 'There is a king in Judah.' And now the king will hear of these reports. So now come and let us take counsel together." ⁸ Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind." ⁹ For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands. - Nehemiah 6:5-9

2) We _____ before we decide what to do.

[Nehemiah 6:8-9]

Discern: actively seeking truth according to God's word.

¹¹ And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth. – Acts 17:11 NLT

Decide: Once we know the truth, we walk in it.

²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. – Matthew 7:24

Live it out!

Q: Is there something in my life right now that I'm believing without testing it against what is actually true? When I face a situation where I need to know what is true, am I actively searching Scripture to find God's truth, or am I hoping I already know enough?