

A blacksmith is shown in a dark, industrial setting, wearing a dark jacket and yellow protective gloves. They are using a hammer to strike a piece of glowing, dark metal held in a vice. A large plume of white sparks is being thrown upwards from the point of impact. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some industrial equipment.

THE GOOD WORK

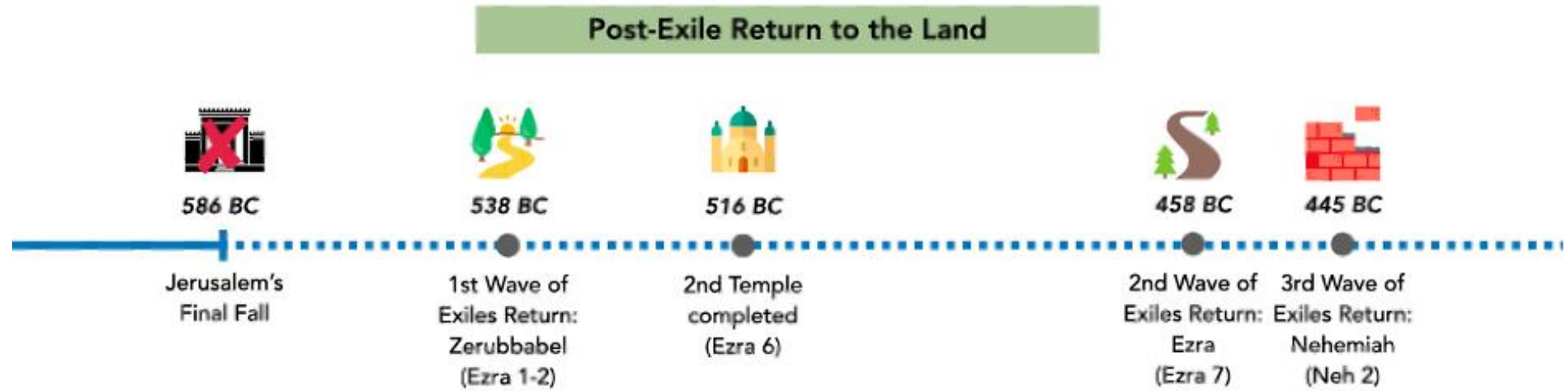
First Congregational Church
505 West Mulberry St.
Kokomo, IN 46901
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A blacksmith is shown working with a hammer and anvil. Sparks are flying from the point of impact, creating a dramatic, high-contrast scene. The background is dark, emphasizing the bright sparks and the metallic surfaces.

STANDING STRONG

IN THE FACE

OF OPPOSITION



Zerubbabel built the 2nd Temple

Ezra built the spiritual community

Nehemiah built Jerusalem's wall





NEHEMIAH WAS

A REGULAR GUY



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE

APPOINTED BY MAN

IF YOU ARE

CALLED BY GOD

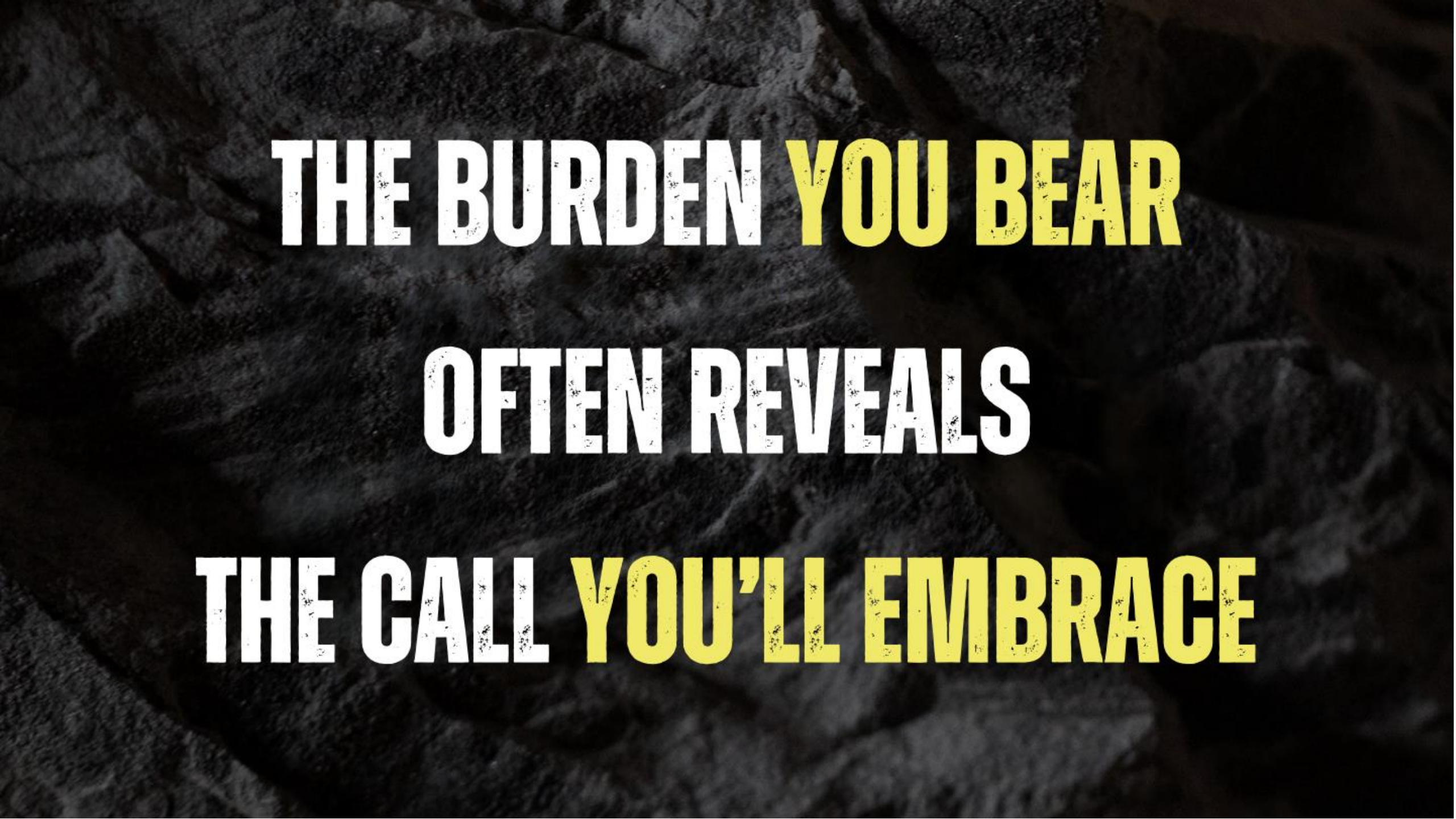
NEHEMIAH ENGAGED

WITH HIS COMMUNITY



Nehemiah 1:2

Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.



THE BURDEN YOU BEAR

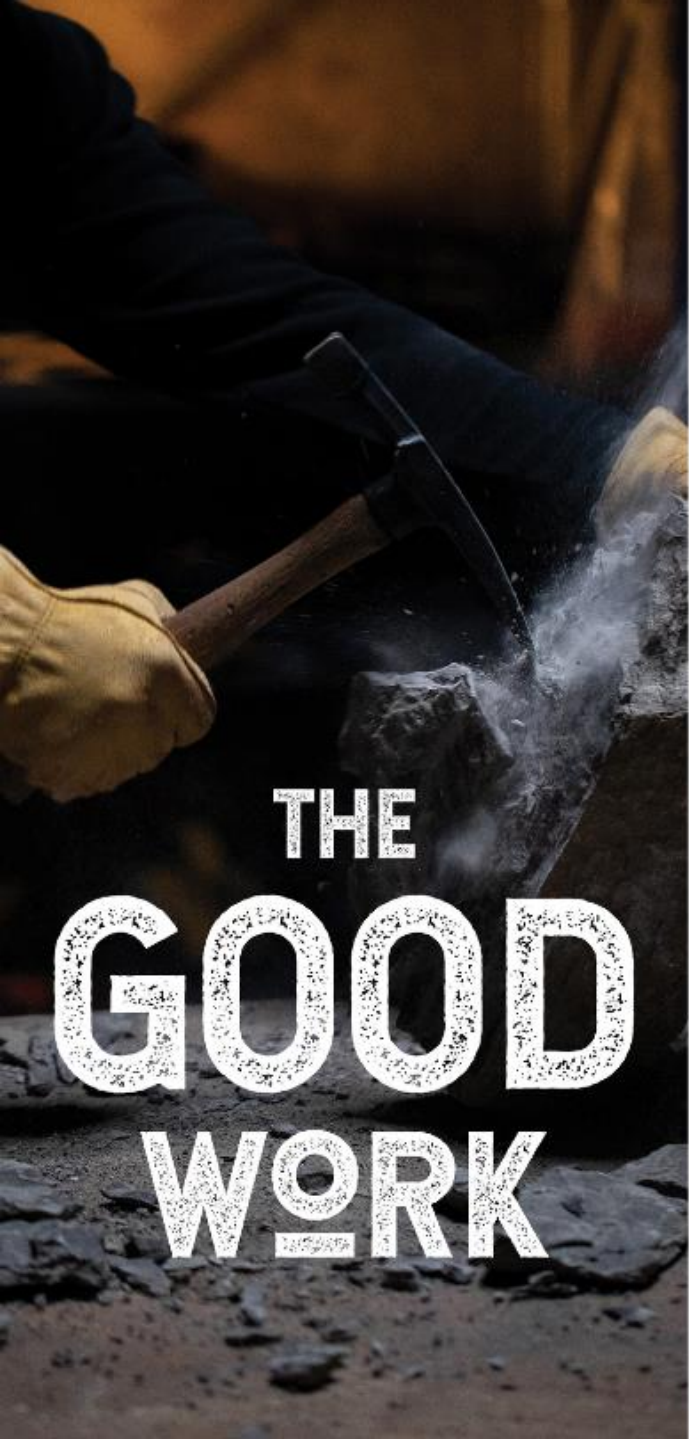
OFTEN REVEALS

THE CALL YOU'LL EMBRACE

WHAT YOU PRAY ABOUT

REFLECTS WHAT

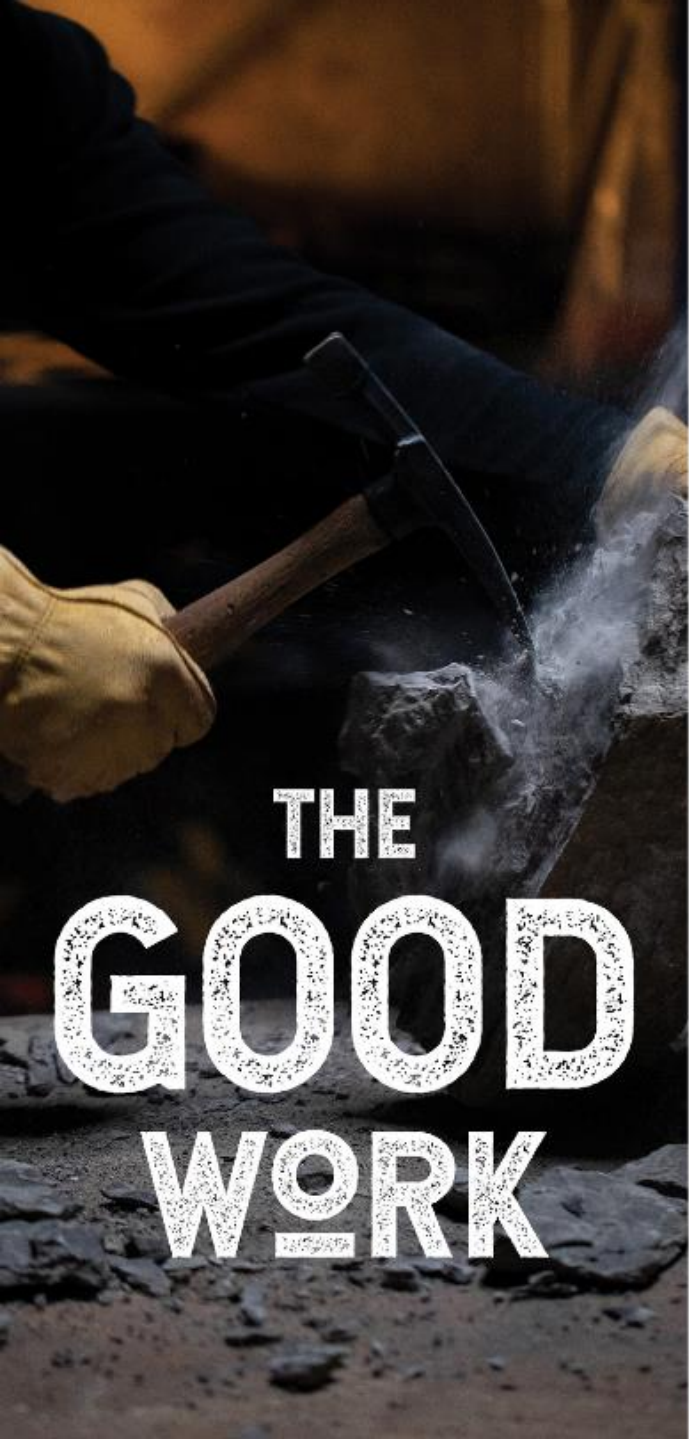
YOU BELIEVE ABOUT GOD



Nehemiah 2:17-18

Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me.

They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.



Nehemiah 2:19-20

But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?”

I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.”

A blacksmith is shown in a dark, industrial setting, wearing a dark shirt and protective gloves. They are using a hammer to strike a glowing, dark piece of metal held in a vice. Sparks are flying from the point of impact. The text "THE WORK GETS" is overlaid in white, and "DONE" is overlaid in yellow.

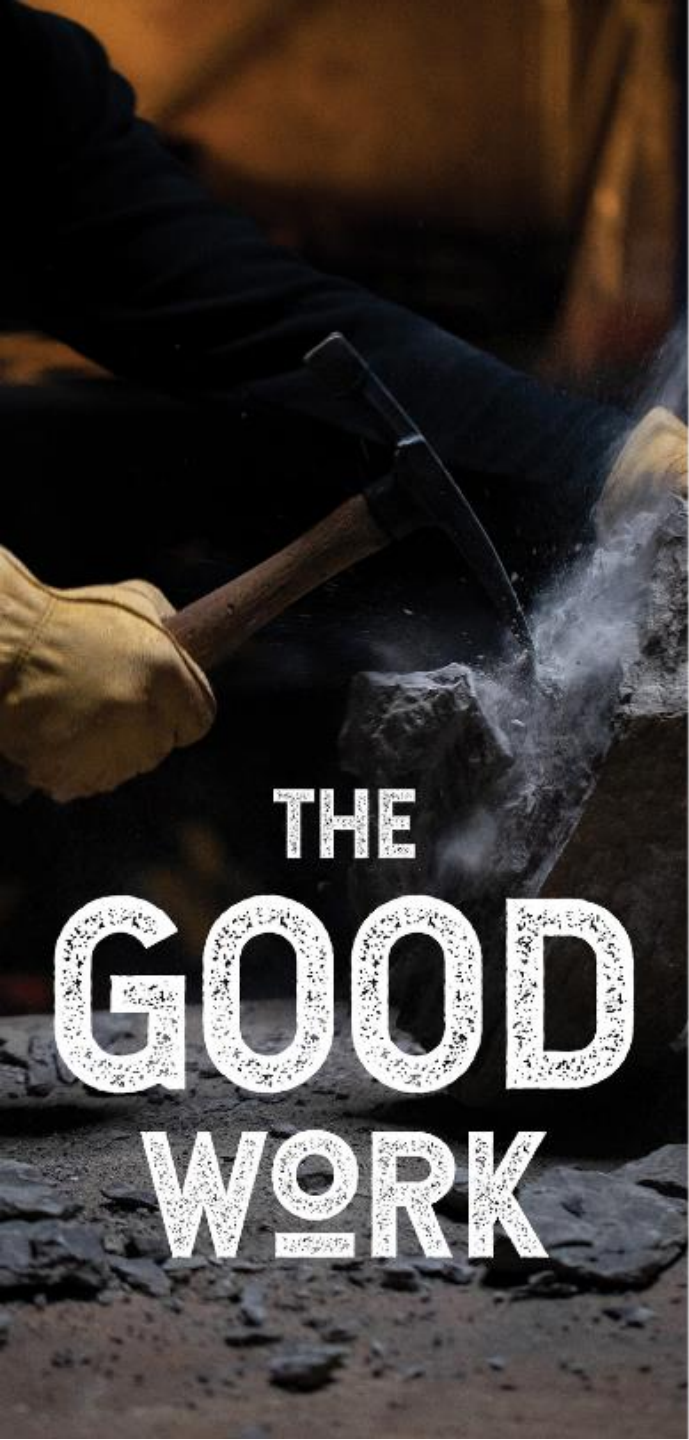
THE WORK GETS

DONE



WHEN THE WORK GOES DOWN

OPPOSITION SHOWS UP!



Nehemiah 4:1-3

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of 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?”

THE
GOOD
WORK



Nehemiah 4:1-3

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!”



ADVANCEMENT

INVITES

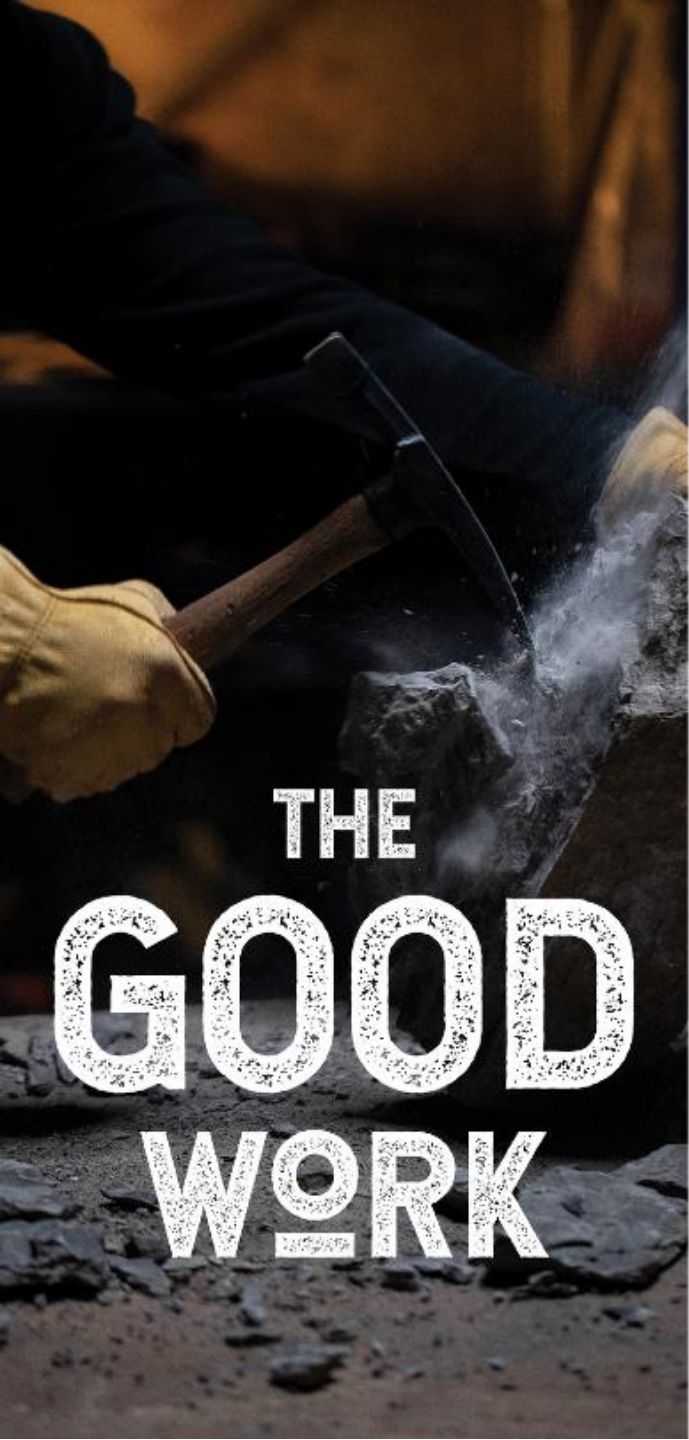
OPPOSITION

**THE DEVIL DOESN'T BOTHER
THOSE WHO ARE
NOT A THREAT**



1 Peter 5:8 NIV

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.



Ephesians 6:11-12

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

THE
GOOD
WORK



Nehemiah 4:4-6

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

DON'T LET:

PRAISE GO TO YOUR HEAD

OR

CRITICISM GO TO YOUR HEART



DON'T TAKE REVENGE
PRAY FOR YOUR ENEMIES AND
PERSECUTORS



Nehemiah 4:7-8

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. They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.



Nehemiah 4:14-15

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.”

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.

THE
GOOD
WORK

A blacksmith is shown working with a hammer and anvil. Sparks are flying from the point of contact between the hammer and the anvil. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the work area.

**REMEMBER
THE LORD YOUR GOD**

THE GREATER THE OPPOSITION

AGAINST YOU

THE GREATER THE OPPORTUNITY

FOR GOD TO FIGHT FOR YOU

Application

1. Expect and prepare for opposition. Advancement invites opposition! The devil attacks those that are productive.
2. Pause to pray, not to bite back. Keep our eyes on God!
3. Remember the Lord your God. Remember Calvary!



A close-up photograph of a person's hands wearing yellow work gloves. The person is using a hammer to strike a large, dark, jagged rock. A cloud of dust or debris is rising from the point of impact. The background is dark and out of focus.

STANDING STRONG

IN THE FACE

OF OPPOSITION



THE GOOD WORK

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