

DREAM ON

PART 4

WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP

Nehemiah 4:6–12 At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm. But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the work was going ahead and that the gaps in the wall of Jerusalem were being repaired, they were furious. They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion. But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves. Then the people of Judah began to complain, “The workers are getting tired, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves.” Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, “Before they know what’s happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work.” The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, “They will come from all directions and attack us!”

HOW CAN I DEFEAT DISCOURAGEMENT?

1. REST MY BODY.

Psalm 127:2 It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to his loved ones.

Psalm 23:1–3 The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength...

2. REINFORCE MY WEAK AREAS.

Nehemiah 4:13 So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows.

Hebrews 10:24–25 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another...

3. REFOCUS ON GOD.

Nehemiah 4:14a Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, “Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious...”

Psalm 119:25 I lie in the dust; revive me by your word.

4. RESIST THE DISCOURAGEMENT.

Nehemiah 4:14b ...and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!”

James 4:7...Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Nehemiah 4:15, 6:15-16 When our enemies heard that we knew of their plans and that God had frustrated them, we all returned to our work on the wall...So on October 2 the wall was finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun. When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.

