

Questions for further study Feb 7th '10

God's restoration work Dealing with opposition Nehemiah 4

1. What should we do when we are ridiculed for your faith? What did Nehemiah do?

2. What gives you the most trouble: external criticism or internal doubts and fears?

We read that "the people had a mind to work" (v6). What happens when people do not have a mind to work? How could you turn this kind of a situation around?

3. We need to be prepared for increased opposition as we get on with God's work. How should we prepare? Have you found that it is easier to give up than to fight? What does God have to say about this?

4. Discouragement and doubt are part of Satan's strategy to defeat us but God gives us the strength for every job that He calls us to do. Do you believe this, or are you apt to become discouraged along the way, thinking it is too much and too hard to complete? Are you singing a dirge or a psalm as you work for God?

5. Recall a time when you were discouraged. What was the turning point? Review Deuteronomy 20.3-4 and Hebrews 13.5. Do these Scriptures allay your fears?

6. Read Nehemiah 4.22. Did the guards grumble at doing double duty? Have you ever grumbled at doing what you thought was more than your share? Read Philippians 4.13; Colossians 3.23; Psalm 18.2, 32; Isaiah 40.31; 2 Timothy 4.17. Consider whether you are on the verge of "burnout" in serving the Lord, or taking too much "R & R"? What steps need to be taken to correct your situation?