

The Five Questions Every Believer Must Answer

Nehemiah 4: 1 - 5

¹ Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became **furious** and very **angry** and mocked the Jews. [He flew into a rage, exploded with anger] (NLT, Mes)

² He spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy *men* (military leaders) of Samaria saying,

- 1) What are these feeble Jews doing?
- 2) Are they going to restore *it* for themselves?
- 3) Can they offer sacrifices?
- 4) Can they finish in a day?
- 5) Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?

³ Now Tobiah the Ammonite *was* near him and he said, "Even what they are building--if a fox should jump on *it*, he would break their stone wall down!"

⁴ Hear, O our God, how we are despised! Return their reproach on their own heads and give them up for plunder in a land of captivity.

⁵ Do not forgive their iniquity and let not their sin be blotted out before You, for they have demoralized the builders.

★ **Everyone has enemies** and they will try you out on what you believe.

Everyone faces challenges so don't - be a cry baby - don't go pout in the corner.

Rejoice that you're suffering any kind of persecution for your Savior, the Redeemer King.

If you try to build anything, you can count on having opposition. But **we are builders**. We are called by the very nature of God's Kingdom to build stuff! We are all about building as well as blessing. Just to bless is not enough because God calls us builders **for His glory and to honor the sacrifice of His Son**.

★ **The Five Questions** that every believer must answer:

Sooner or later, you will have to answer these questions. And actually, you'll be asked these questions multiple times in your lifetime.

1) "What are these **feeble** Jews doing? Yes, we are kind of feeble.
I don't mind being called feeble because as the human species, we are fairly frail. Yet the Scripture declares, "His strength is perfected in my weakness".

2) Are they going to restore *it* **for themselves**? No, but for the Lord.
This is crossing the line. Judging the motive of my heart from a distance isn't right. Besides, I wouldn't even work this hard for any man, only for the Lamb of God. I got rid of all my personal ambition when I was touched by the Holy Spirit in 1974. So we are restoring, rebuilding this wall for the Living God, not for ourselves.

3) Can they **offer sacrifices**? Yes, this is our spiritual service of worship.
Romans 12: 1 - Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a **living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, *which is* your **spiritual service of worship**.

4) Can they **finish in a day**? No, we signed up for a lifetime. We are "l i f e r s".
I have never met anyone who got saved for just one day. When they surrendered their lives, it was because they realized their spiritual need and they turned their lives over to the Lord. We are **marathon runners**. It's not the sprinters that will win this race.

5) Can they **revive the stones** from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?"
Yes, yes, yes. This is the power of God's **Rescue, Recovery and Restoration**.

The three "R's" should be a part of every church's DNA. Yes, because of His great mercy and saving power, we can revive even the "**burnt stones**" from the dusty rubble.

Who is a burnt stone? Those who were serving God with you 2 months ago, 2 years ago, 5 years ago. Today they are sitting home, reading the newspaper and drinking their coffee.

They are people who lost their vision... people who gave up on their dream... people who got hurt and disappointed. Yet they are people who still know the Word of God and understand how to flow in the Holy Spirit to some degree, but they quit. They gave up. They had their eyes... **too much on men and not enough on the Lord**.

We are going after the burnt stones. We love the burnt stones and we believe that they are going to be **reactivated** into the Army of God with renewed passion and fire.

Here's your homework assignment, your action plan:

You are going to call a burnt stone on the phone and say three things to them:
I love you... **I miss** you... Is there anything I **can pray** for you about right now?

★ **Don't demoralize the builders**. God doesn't like it and neither do the builders.

This was Nehemiah's prayer:

Nehemiah 4: 5 - Do not forgive their iniquity and let not their sin be blotted out before You, for they have demoralized the builders.

demoralize - to lower the morale of; to weaken the spirit, the courage or the discipline; to weaken the staying power of a group or a people.

(Synonym: dispirit, daunt, unnerve, **destroy the morale** of; discourage, frighten, and weaken)

Philippians 3: 12 - Our personal focus and lifestyle...

Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, **but I press on** so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: **but I pursue**, that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended (for) by Christ Jesus. (WBT)