

Doing God's Work

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The Big-Picture Truth: AS GOD WORKS AND WE WORK, THE KINGDOM WORK GETS DONE.

Realization #1: THE WORK THAT BELIEVERS DO FOR GOD IS ONLY ACCOMPLISHED WITH OUR EFFORT AND HIS HELP.

So on October 2 the wall was finally finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun. ¹⁶When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized that this work had been done with the help of our God . . .
Nehemiah 6:15-16 (New Living Translation)

Realization #2: GOD'S WORK IS NEVER FINISHED.

After the wall was finished and I had hung the doors in the gates, the gatekeepers, singers, and Levites were appointed. ²I gave the responsibility of governing Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah, the commander of the fortress, for he was a faithful man who feared God more than most. . . . ⁴At that time the city was large and spacious, but the population was small. And only a few houses were scattered throughout the city. Nehemiah 7:1-2, 4 (NLT)

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
1 Corinthians 15:58 (New International Version)

Realization #3: BELIEVERS MUST EXPECT CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO GOD'S WORK.

During those fifty-two days, many letters went back and forth between Tobiah and the officials of Judah. ¹⁸For many in Judah had sworn allegiance to him because his father-in-law was Shecaniah son of Arah and because his son Jehohanan was married to the daughter of Meshullam son of Berekiah. ¹⁹They kept telling me what a wonderful man Tobiah was, and then they told him everything I said. And Tobiah sent many threatening letters to intimidate me. Nehemiah 6:17-19 (NLT)

For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)

Realization #4: SPIRITUAL RENEWAL IS WHAT CONTINUES TO EMPOWER BELIEVERS TO DO GOD'S WORK.

The priests, the Levites, the temple guards, the musicians, many of the ordinary people, the temple workmen—all the people of Israel—settled in the towns and cities of Judah. ^{8:1} . . . On the first day of that month they all assembled in Jerusalem, in the square just inside the Water Gate. They asked Ezra, the priest and scholar of the Law which the LORD had given Israel through Moses, to get the book of the Law. ²So Ezra brought it to the place where the people had gathered—men, women, and the children who were old enough to understand. ³There in the square by the gate he read the Law to them from dawn until noon, and they all listened attentively. Nehemiah 7:73-8:3 (GNT)

Realization #5: CELEBRATION IS A PART OF STAYING FRESH IN GOD'S WORK.

During the dedication of the new wall of Jerusalem, the Levites throughout the land were asked to come to Jerusalem to assist in the ceremonies. They were to take part in the joyous occasion with their songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, lyres, and harps. ²⁸The singers were brought together from Jerusalem and its surrounding villages . . . ³⁰The priests and Levites first dedicated themselves, then the people, the gates, and the wall. ³¹I led the leaders of Judah to the top of the wall and organized two large choirs to give thanks . . . ⁴³Many sacrifices were offered on that joyous day, for God had given the people cause for great joy. The women and children also participated in the celebration, and the joy of the people of Jerusalem could be heard far away. Nehemiah 12:27-30, 43 (NLT)