



“EVER FEEL LIKE GIVING UP?”

RENEWAL – PT. 4

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NEH. 4:6 (NLT) At last the wall was completed to half its original height around the entire city, for the people had worked very hard.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU WANT TO QUIT

1) RECOGNIZE THE _____

NEH. 4:1-3, 7-8 (NLT) Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, saying in front of his friends and the Samaritan army officers, "What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they are doing? Do they think they can build the wall in a day if they offer enough sacrifices? Look at those charred stones they are pulling out of the rubbish and using again!" Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, "That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!" 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 were being repaired, they became furious. They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and to bring about confusion there.

✓ External ... ~ _____ ~ _____ ~ _____

NEH. 4:10 (NLT) Then the people of Judah began to complain that the workers were becoming tired. There was so much rubble to be moved that we could never get it done by ourselves.

✓ Internal ... ~ _____ ~ _____ ~ _____

NEH. 4:12 (NIV) Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us."

2) REORGANIZE _____

NEH. 4:13 (NIV) Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.

3) REMEMBER _____

NEH. 4:14 (NLT) Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the leaders and the people and said to them, "Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your friends, your families, and your homes!"

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER...

- ✓ God's _____ to you in the past.
- ✓ God's _____ in the present.
- ✓ God's _____ of the future.

PS. 119:25 (NLT) I lie in the dust, completely discouraged; revive me by your word.

NEH. 4:20c (NIV) Our God will fight for us!

4) REFUSE _____

NEH. 4:15, 21, 23 (NLT) 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. We continued the work ... half the men were always on guard. During this time, none of us—not I, nor my relatives, nor my servants, nor the guards who were with me—ever took off our clothes. We carried our weapons with us at all times, even when we went for water.

GAL. 6:9 (NLT) So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.

HEB. 10:35-36 (NIV) So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

Digging Deeper: Small Group Questions ...

- How would you describe discouragement? What is it? Where does it come from? What effect does it have on people?
- What was it that discouraged those rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem?
- Are you more susceptible to “external” or “internal” opposition?
- Share about a time in your life when you were half way through a project and wanted to quit.
- How has your participation in this or another small group encouraged you or kept you in the game?