

# **Greetings in the name of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST.**

Welcome to The Well Community Church Indian Service.

Today is the final sermon in our series: A believer can do everything for GOD with Christ's strength.

## **How God Rebuilds Our Lives**

### **1. The Burden**

Picture a palace in Susa. Nehemiah is a trusted cupbearer. Then his brother Hanani arrives from Judah with news that drops like a stone: "The remnant is in trouble and shame; Jerusalem's wall is broken and its gates burned." Nehemiah sits down. The man who stands steady before a king collapses before his God. He weeps. He fasts. He prays. His prayer is not a performance; it's confession and covenant: "We have sinned... Remember what You said to Moses... Give Your servant favor before this man." He carries the pain of a ruined city like it's his own story. What God is doing: Before God rebuilds a wall, He rebuilds a heart. The work of restoration begins where Nehemiah begins—on his knees. Maybe your life feels like Jerusalem—stones scattered, gates burned, dignity gone. Hear the first lesson of rebuilding: bring the ruins into God's presence.

### **2. The Door Opens**

Months pass (the calendar rolls from Kislev to Nisan). Nehemiah carries his burden into the throne room. The king notices: "Why is your face sad?" The text says Nehemiah is terrified. But with prayer in his heart, he makes a bold ask with clear plans—permission to go, letters for passage, timber from Asaph for the gates, the wall, and even the house he'll need. God answers through a pagan king. Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem, keeps quiet, and at night rides out to examine the ruins—charred gates, tumbled stones, silent streets. He returns to the people and says, "You see the trouble we're in... Come, let us rebuild." And the people say, "Let us rise up and build." Opposition shows up immediately—Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah

the Ammonite official, Geshem the Arab. Nehemiah answers, “The God of heaven will give us success; you have no claim here.” What God is doing: God opens doors for those who have bowed low. Prayer births plans; plans meet providence; providence emboldens people. When God opens a door, step through it with clarity. Pray specifically. Plan wisely. Move decisively.

### **3. The Heat of Opposition**

Now the noise rises. Sanballat sneers: “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they revive stones from heaps of dust?” Tobiah piles on: “Even a fox would knock down their wall.” Mockery becomes menace—plots to attack. Fear spreads. Nehemiah’s response is the rhythm of revival: “We prayed... and we posted a guard.” Heaven and earth. Intercession and initiative. The builders work “with all their heart.” When the threats escalate, Nehemiah stations families by gaps in the wall and shouts: “Don’t be afraid. Remember the Lord—great and awesome—and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!” From that day, it’s trowel and sword. Half the men build while the other half stand with spears. Those who carry materials keep a hand free for the weapon. Every builder wears a sword. A trumpeter stays beside Nehemiah: “Wherever you hear the trumpet, rally there. Our God will fight for us.” They work from daybreak till starlight. They even sleep in their clothes, weapons close, because rebuilding is warfare. What God is doing: God grows courage under pressure. He teaches us to build and battle at the same time. Expect resistance when you rise to rebuild. But do not step down. Pray and post a guard. Work and watch. Worship and war. God fights for you.

### **4. The Finish and the Final Traps**

The wall nears completion, and the enemy changes tactics. If they can’t stop the work with fear, they’ll stop the worker with distraction. Sanballat and Geshem send a friendly invitation: “Come meet us in the plain of Ono.” Ono is an hour away from the work—and a lifetime away from God’s purpose. Nehemiah answers with one of the fiercest lines in Scripture: “I am doing a great work and cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?” They send the same message four times. Nehemiah gives the same answer four times. Then an open letter—a smear campaign: “It’s reported you and the Jews plan revolt; you’re making yourself king; prophets are ready to proclaim you.” Nehemiah’s reply: “No such things as you say have been done; you invented them.” Then his brief prayer: “Now, O God, strengthen my hands.” When slander fails, they try spiritual manipulation. A hired prophet named Shemaiah whispers, “Let’s hide in the temple; they’re coming to kill you tonight.” Nehemiah discerns the trap. Hiding in the Holy Place would break God’s law and discredit his

leadership. He refuses: “Should a man like me run away?” He will not save himself at the price of his soul. Then—the sentence that silences the enemy: “So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days.” And when the nations heard, they lost confidence because they realized this work had been done by our God. What God is doing: God brings His work to completion despite lies, lures, and intimidation. Focus beats distraction. Integrity beats manipulation. God gets the glory. To the room: Stay on the wall. Don’t go to Ono. Don’t chase accusations. Don’t hide in a compromise that looks spiritual but breaks God’s word. Finish the work.

## **Nehemiah Pointing to Jesus**

All through these scenes, Nehemiah’s life is a shadow pointing to Someone greater: He wept over a ruined city; Jesus wept over Jerusalem and came to rebuild broken hearts. He asked a king for permission and provision; Jesus was sent by the King of heaven with all authority to save and restore. He faced mockery and plots yet kept building; Jesus faced mockery and the cross and would not stop until He cried, “It is finished.” Nehemiah said, “I’m doing a great work; I cannot come down.” At the cross they shouted, “Come down!” But Jesus would not come down, because the great work was saving you. Nehemiah’s wall was finished in fifty-two days; Jesus’ work was finished for eternity, and by His Spirit He now rebuilds us from the inside out. You pray JESUS will RESTORE your life too. Some of us are at Chapter 1—sitting in the ruins, finally honest with God. Start there. Some are at Chapter 2—a door is open; it’s time to step. Some are stuck in Chapter 4—mocked, tired, tempted to quit. Pick up the sword and the trowel again. Some live in Chapter 6—distracted, slandered, lured into “respectable” compromise. Stay on the wall. Finish the work. And remember the banner over this whole journey: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Not because I am strong, but because Jesus—our Greater Nehemiah—is with me, in me, for me.