

20230212 What is my role in the growth of the church?

Nehemiah 4:13-23

13 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.

14 After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

15 When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.

16 From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor.

The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah 17 who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other,

18 and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me.

19 Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall.

20 Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!"

21 So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out.

22 At that time I also said to the people, "Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day."

23 Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.

Ephesians 4:12b-13

12 ...so that the body of Christ may be built up

13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

THE TRUTH TO BELIEVE.

God called us to grow and to become mature into the image of Christ, and the church is the faith community where we can learn how to walk in the Spirit.

THE ACTIONS TO APPLY

We already know that the Bible says that the body of Christ may be built up until **we ALL reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

Action #1: Never give up growing in Christ.

Nehemiah 4:16

16 From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah who were building the wall.

Action #2: Be a part of the growth.

Nehemiah 4:17

17 (...all the people of Judah who were building the wall).

Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other.

LEADERSHIP'S THREE CRITICAL ROLES IN THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF THE CHURCH.

1. Strategic planning and implementation

Nehemiah 4:13

13 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.

2. Continuous encouragement

Nehemiah 4:14

14 After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

3. Clear and swift communication.

Nehemiah 4:19-20a

19 Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall.

20 Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there..."

THE RESULT TO EXPECT

Our God will fight for us!

Nehemiah 4:20b

20 ... **Our God will fight for us!**"