BUILDING IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE

Nehemiah 4

1. The enemy wants to **CRUSH** my **SPIRIT** and convince me that I am **WORTHLESS**. *(2 Corinthians 4:7; Psalm 34:18, 56:1-2, 139:13-15, 143:3-4; Proverbs 15:13, 18:14; 1 Peter 5:8; Luke 12:6-7; Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 2:9; Isaiah 43:1)*

2. The enemy wants me to feel **FOOLISH** and I**NCOMPETENT** before others and perceive any good work as **IMPOSSIBLE**. (*2 Corinthians 3:5; Philippians 1:6, 4:13; Luke 1:37; Matthew 19:26; Psalm 73:26; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; John 15:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31)*

3. For the child of God, attacks against us are attacks against **GOD**, and He is able to **RIGHT** the **WRONGS**. *(John 15:18-27; Matthew 5:11-12, 10:24; 2 Timothy 3:12; Luke 18:8; Colossians 3:25; Psalm 89:14; Romans 12:19)*

4. We must guard our **HEARTS** and **MINDS** against confusion and **DISCOURAGEMENT**. *(Proverbs 4:23; Philippians 4:6-8; Romans 12:2; Colossians 3:2; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Isaiah 26:3; Psalm 31:24, 51:10; Joshua 1:9; John 16:33; 1 Peter 5:7; Romans 8:26)*

5. Even in depressing and difficult times, we have to **FIGHT** for what **MATTERS**. *(Philippians 3:13-14; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9; Hebrews 12:1; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 2 Corinthians 10:4; 2 Timothy 1:7)*

6. We need to **SHARE** the burden, and we must keep our '**SWORD**' close by, knowing that God is **FIGHTING** for us! (*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Philippians 2:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; Ephesians 6:17; John 14:16; Psalm 55:22; 1 John 4:4; Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:8; Galatians 6:2; Luke 10:30-37)*

7. Be **STEADFAST**, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is **NOT IN VAIN**. *(1 Corinthians 15:58; Colossians 3:23-24; Galatians 6:9; Hebrews)*

Taking it further to help you THRIVE...

THRIVE Groups are where life and growth take place. We don't want to just say *"See you next week"* as we leave each Sunday - we want to connect!
For more info on joining a THRIVE Group, visit thrivekg.org/thrive-groups.

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. What was Nehemiah's first response to the attacks and ridicule from angry opponents? Is this your first response? Why / Why not?

3. There is an old nursery rhyme that says, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Why is this NOT true? Relate this to what the people of Jerusalem were enduring in this rebuilding project. How can you relate? How are we to handle it when others speak to/about us in similar ways Israel's opponents were speaking to/about the people of Jerusalem?

4. At what times / in what situations do you struggle with feeling incompetent and insufficient? How has God helped you with this? In what ways do you still need help?

5. What does discouragement do (or threaten to do) to us? How are we to fight against this while at the same time continuing to move forward?

6. In what ways did the wall builders share the load? How can we practically share the load with fellow believers?

7. Read Nehemiah 4:18 and Ephesians 6:17. What is the important correlation between these verses and what is the big takeaway for us?