

Life Restoration Is Hard Work It Has Opposition

Jerusalem in ruins is a picture of a life that has lost its defenses against attack and lies open to repeated hurt and misery. The main reason it is difficult to restore broken lives is, there is no recognition of God as a necessary part of the process.

Take The Steps To Rebuild

1. We must begin with prayer.
2. We must be concerned about the ruins.
3. We must confess the sins that have caused the ruins.
4. We must be committed to rebuild them.
5. We must have courage.

When we pray we need to be specific with what the needs are.

Face The Reality Of Facts And Know:

1. Know what we will actually need, name them with specifics
2. Know what steps we should take
3. Know what may be involved in changing our habits so that we can be freed to be what God wants us to be.

When seek God in order to rebuild our lives and set out to change something in our lives for the better, we have the full authority of the throne of God behind us. We may proceed with full confidence that the unseen, but very real, power of God is backing us up.

Make A Commitment To Work With Others

We are not able to rebuild our lives on our own.

Nehemiah 2:18b Then And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

1. Everyone was involved in the project.

The whole city gave itself over for a period of 52

2. Everyone worked together.

In chapters three and four you see the phrase, “next to him” worked so and so.

3. They worked near their home.

God has placed us all strategically where he wants us to be. Our neighborhood, office, or home is where our ministry should be.

4. Each one completed his assigned task.

Some had more to do than others, but no one failed, except the “nobles” of Tekoa who would not dirty their hands.

Responsibility is always the mark of spiritual maturity.

When We Begin To Rebuild Our Lives Opposition Will Arise

When we actually start recovering from ruin we will also meet severe resistance, The opposition will come in many forms. The enemies tried to mock what God was doing. When that failed, they attempted a conspiracy. They tried to involve the Israelites in a plot that would overthrow the work.

Opposition by Ridicule and Humiliation 4:1-3

Many young people are trapped in habits that are destroying them out of fear they will be ridiculed if they try to stop.

Opposition By Conspiracy 4:8

They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. Satan is always plotting against us.

Have A Plan To Handle Outward Opposition

Ne 4:9 Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

Nehemiah prayed and he had a plan.

1. Assess the situation and post a guard. 4:13

We must observe exactly where we are under attack. When we have identified the source of attack, (addiction, habit, etc.) we must post a guard at that point. The enemy saw that they could achieve nothing with their attacks.

2. We need to review our spiritual resources. 4:14-15

As believers we have a power at work in our lives that our enemies know nothing about. We have invisible resources we can count on in times of danger. The enemy saw that they could achieve nothing with their attacks.

3. We must remain ready at all times. 4:16-18

Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. Work and war and inseparable.

4. We must wed faith and preparation. 4:19-20

5. There must be self-sacrifice.

There is an alertness, a vigilance, that does not even allow for comfort.

We Need To Rebuild Our Walls

Jerusalem is used in a pictorial sense throughout the Scriptures as the place where God desires to dwell. When King David was told to build there God made it clear this was the

place where God would dwell among his people. Jerusalem therefore, throughout the Old and New Testaments, has pictured the place where God seeks to dwell. The New Testament teaches us man is to be the dwelling place of God. We are the temple, each their own a Jerusalem, God seeks to dwell in our human temple.

Our Jerusalem is us, the place where God wants to dwell, the center of our being. When our Jerusalem is in ruins, it is a picture of a life where God is no longer in the controlling center. That center must be rebuilt. God will help us rebuild our Jerusalem