

Nehemiah 4:15-18

And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work. So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah. Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me.

If you think about it, what is one of the most important things you can do in your church? You may say, teaching, or giving. What about serving or doing those little jobs that no one else wants to do?

These are all good but, as I read today's verses in Nehemiah, I think that the most important job, and one we should all be doing, is to pray. We tend to forget that there's a spiritual battle that's going on in our churches. Your pastor is probably attacked constantly as well as the elders, Deacons, Worship Team, and others who serve in the church, including your church family who do not have a title in the church are attacked. Even that person who came and visited the church last Sunday is under attack as well.

Here in today's devotional verses, we read of the children of Israel rebuilding the wall in Jerusalem. As some are working, others are standing there in full armor ready to protect those who are doing the work. We should be like those who are standing there in the full armor of God protecting those who are doing the work in the church.

How do we do that?

By praying!

Maybe you are a worker in the church; did you notice that those who worked also had a sword in one hand as they worked with the other?

† *Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon.*

Yes others should be praying for you, but you also should be in prayer for others yourself. So many tend to take prayer so lightly and many times use it as a last resort. Yet, we should work and pray at the same time. Just as the builders worked and carried a sword at the same time. And you can also take this into your own home, where you may work a job or you are a housewife who stays home taking care of your home and family, or even someone who is in school. We are responsible for maintaining and praying for

those in the church, but also doing that protection and battle in our homes with prayer also.

- † **Zechariah 8:20-22** *"Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Peoples shall yet come, Inhabitants of many cities; The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, "Let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, And seek the LORD of hosts. I myself will go also." Yes, many peoples and strong nations Shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, And to pray before the LORD.'*

- † **James 5:16b** *Pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

- † **James 5:13-15** *Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*