

**A Study on  
Nehemiah**

A hand wearing a yellow work glove is shown in the process of striking a large, dark stone with a hammer. The hammer's head is visible, and a cloud of dust or debris is rising from the point of impact. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a construction or quarry setting.

**THE  
GOOD  
WORK**

A Study on  
Nehemiah



THE  
**GOOD**  
WORK

❖ Expect Opposition

THE  
**GOOD**  
WORK



Spiritual growth invites opposition.

If you aren't ready for opposition, you aren't ready to be  
used by God.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.



When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. **He ridiculed the Jews**, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day?”

Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?” Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “**What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!**”

A Study on  
Nehemiah



THE  
**GOOD  
WORK**

- Expect Opposition

❖ Don't empower your critics

THE  
GOOD  
WORK



When you acknowledge your critics, you give them  
power.



So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart. But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry.

They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”

Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.” Then the Jews who lived near them came **and told us ten times over,** “Wherever you turn, they will attack us.”

A Study on  
Nehemiah



THE  
**GOOD  
WORK**

- Expect Opposition
- How should you respond to critics?

❖ Pray about everything



Don't worry about anything; instead, **pray about everything**. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

THE  
**GOOD**  
WORK



Don't let a problem intimidate you. Instead, let it  
motivate you to pray!

and said: “Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not  
the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the  
kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your  
hand, and no one can withstand you.

Are You not our God...

THE  
GOOD  
WORK



Don't tell God how big your obstacle is.

Tell the obstacle how big your God is.

Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.



So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

THE  
**GOOD**  
WORK



Pray as if everything depends on God.

Work as if everything depends on you.

A Study on  
Nehemiah



THE  
**GOOD**  
WORK

- Expect Opposition
- How should you respond to critics?
- Pray about everything

❖ Deal with problems as they come

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. 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.” 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.



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

THE  
**GOOD**  
WORK



If you don't solve your problems from the past, they  
tend to follow you into the future.

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and  
all these things will be given to you as well.

Therefore **do not worry about tomorrow**, for  
tomorrow will worry about itself.

**Each day has enough trouble of its own.**

Now the men and their wives raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.”

Others were saying, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine.” Still others were saying, “We have had to borrow money to pay the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards.



Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others.”

When I heard their outcry and these charges, **I was very angry.** I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are charging your own people interest!” **So I called together a large meeting to deal with them**

and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say.

So I continued, “**What you are doing is not right.** Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies? I and my brothers and my men are also lending the people money and grain. But let us stop charging interest!

Give back to them immediately their fields, vineyards, olive groves and houses, and also the interest you are charging them—one percent of the money, grain, new wine and olive oil.” “We will give it back,” they said. “And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.”



Then I summoned the priests and made the nobles and officials take an oath to do what they had promised. I also shook out the folds of my robe and said, “In this way may God shake out of their house and possessions anyone who does not keep this promise.

So may such a person be shaken out and emptied!” At this the whole assembly said, “Amen,” and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

A Study on  
Nehemiah



THE  
**GOOD  
WORK**

- Expect Opposition
- How should you respond to critics?
- Pray about everything
- Deal with problems as they come

❖ Keep pressing forward

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.

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.”



- Expect opposition
- Don't empower your critics
- Pray about everything
- Deal with problems as they come
- Keep pressing forward



**A Study on  
Nehemiah**

A close-up photograph of a hand wearing a yellow work glove, gripping a wooden hammer. The hammer is in the process of striking a dark, rough stone, with a cloud of dust or debris rising from the point of impact. The background is dark and out of focus.

**THE  
GOOD  
WORK**