

EMBASSY CENTER MKE

Our Next is Now!

Nehemiah 4 (NLT)

1Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, **2**saying in front of his friends and the Samaritan army officers, “What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they’re doing? Do they think they can build the wall in a single day by just offering a few sacrifices? Do they actually think they can make something of stones from a rubbish heap—and charred ones at that?”

4 Then I prayed, “Hear us, our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads, and may they themselves become captives in a foreign land! **5** Do not ignore their guilt. Do not blot out their sins, for they have provoked you to anger here in front of the builders.”

6 At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm.

7 But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the work was going ahead and that the gaps in the wall of Jerusalem were being repaired, they were furious.

8 They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion. **9** But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.

10 Then the people of Judah began to complain, “The workers are getting tired, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves.”

11 Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, “Before they know what’s happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work.”

12The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, “They will come from all directions and attack us!” **13**So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows.

14Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, “Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!”

15 When our enemies heard that we knew of their plans and that God had frustrated them, we all returned to our work on the wall. **16** But from then on, only half my men worked while the other half stood guard with spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. The leaders stationed themselves behind the people of Judah **17** who were building the wall. The laborers carried on their work with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon. **18** All the builders had a sword belted to their side. The trumpeter stayed with me to sound the alarm. **19** Then I explained to the nobles and officials and all the people, “The work is very spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall.”

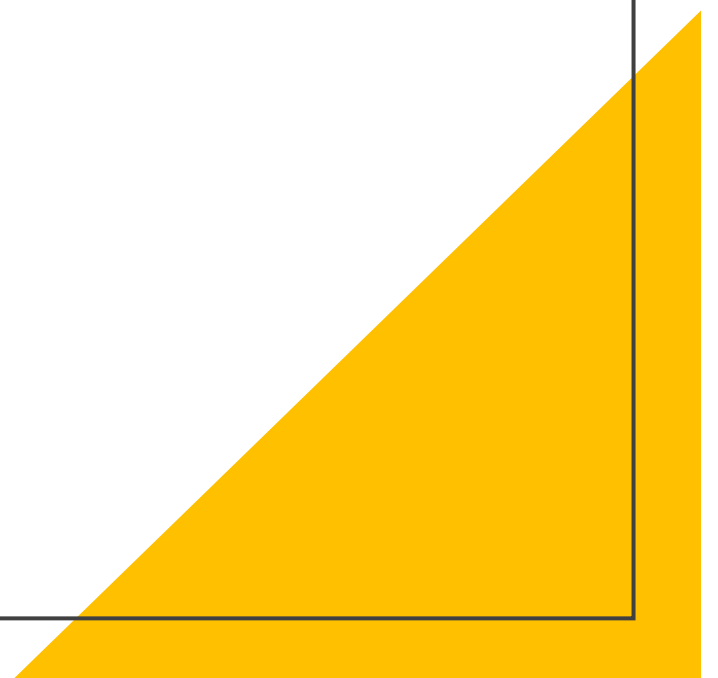
20When you hear the blast of the trumpet, rush to wherever it is sounding. Then our God will fight for us!”

21We worked early and late, from sunrise to sunset. And half the men were always on guard. **22**I also told everyone living outside the walls to stay in Jerusalem. That way they and their servants could help with guard duty at night and work during the day. **23**During this time, none of us—not I, nor my relatives, nor my servants, nor the guards who were with me—ever took off our clothes. We carried our weapons with us at all times, even when we went for water.

Year of the Builder: “Defeating Opposition”

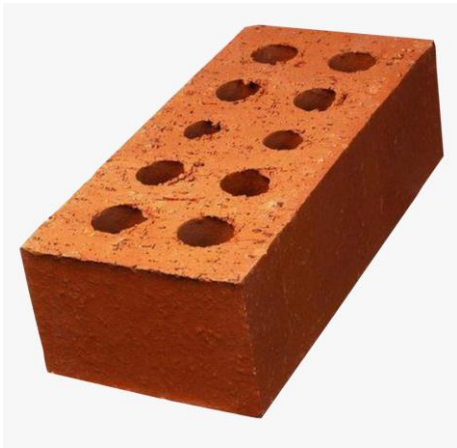
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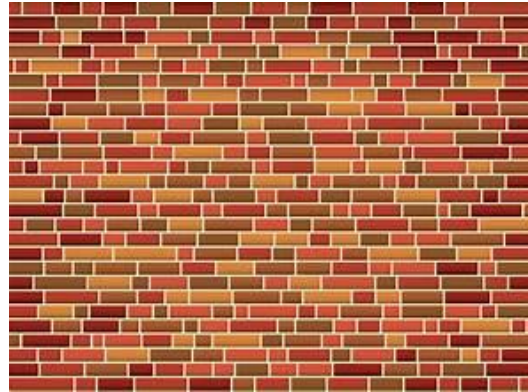


Stages of House Construction

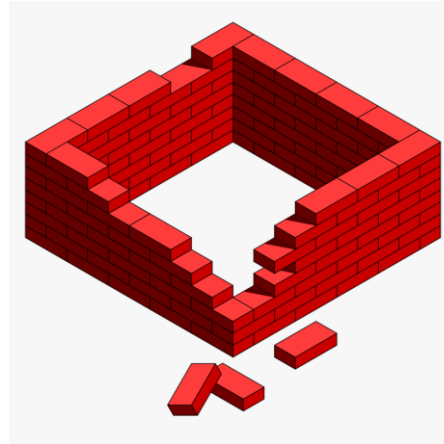
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2



3



4



Summary

God's builders hear Him and respond.

God's builders embrace a family spirit.

Offense is a choice: offense will destroy what God is building.

When you build what God wants it blesses you, your family, and community.

Private prayers influence public work.



Builders must use words strategically.



Ecclesiastes 12:11 (GNT)

“The sayings of the wise are like the sharp sticks that shepherds use to guide sheep, and collected proverbs are as lasting as firmly driven nails. They have been given by God, the one Shepherd of us all.”



The Ammonite Spirit



Builders Defeat Opposition Together.



Nehemiah 6:15-16 (NLT)

15 So on October 2 the wall was finished— just fifty-two days after we had begun. **16** When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.

From Watchman Nee...

- A Christian life is an unending engagement on the battlefield. The Christian has no possibility of laying down his arms until he stands before the Lord.
- The best defense is a continuous offense. Oppose with the will as well as with the strength of the spirit.
- Praying in the spirit is most productive in attacking the enemy or resisting his wiles.
- We must attack Satan incessantly to prevent ourselves from being attacked. Daily maintain a combat attitude in his spirit, praying therewith for the overthrow of all the works of Satan.



Keys to Finish Building

- Knowledge
- Prayer
- Strategy
- Encouragement
- Armor of God



Summary

Offense is a choice: offense will destroy what God is building.

Private prayers influence public works.

Builders work and war with words.

Builders finish with knowledge, prayer, strategy, encouragement, and God's armor.

Builders defeat opposition together.