

5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Dare To Make A Difference

Part 2: Nehemiah 3&4

OVERVIEW

This five-day devotional is an invitation to keep building on what God stirred in you through worship and the message from Nehemiah. Each day will move from surrendering to Jesus as your firm foundation to joining God's restoring work with perseverance, unity, and love. Come with openness—God can rebuild what's broken and strengthen what's begun.

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TO VIEW THE SERMON



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01 **Matthew 7:24-27**

02 **1 John 1:9**

03 **Nehemiah 1:4-7**

04 **Nehemiah 4:14**

05 **1 Corinthians 12:12-14**

DAY 1

MATTHEW 7:24-27

Storms reveal what our lives are built on. Jesus doesn't promise a storm-free life; He promises a secure foundation for those who hear His words and put them into practice. Worship is more than a moment—it's a decision to build on Christ's love and truth, especially when pressure hits and what's shaky gets exposed.

In the service, we sang about building on the rock and trusting God alone. That's not merely a feeling; it's a daily pattern of obedience—choosing Jesus' way when shortcuts look easier, choosing honesty when hiding seems safer, choosing prayer when anxiety wants control. Over time, those choices become “foundation work” that holds you steady when winds rise.

Today, ask God to show you what you're building on right now: approval, comfort, control, achievement, or Christ Himself. The good news is that foundations can be repaired. Jesus is not only the rock; He is also the Savior who restores and strengthens those who return to Him with humility.

- What recent “storm” has revealed about what I'm building my life on?
- Where do I feel most tempted to rely on myself instead of trusting Jesus?
- What is one teaching of Jesus I know but haven't been practicing consistently?
- What daily habit would help me lay a stronger foundation this week (prayer, Scripture, Sabbath, community)?
- Pray: “Jesus, show me what needs rebuilding, and help me obey You one step at a time.”

DAY 2

1 JOHN 1:9

A firm foundation begins with truth—especially the truth about our sin and our need. Confession isn't a punishment; it's a pathway to freedom. When we bring what's hidden into God's light, we stop living a double life and start living a healed life rooted in grace.

The sermon highlighted how easy it is to show up to church while avoiding what God is inviting us to face. Yet God already knows your entire story, including the parts you regret and the parts you fear. The promise of 1 John 1:9 is not that you'll never struggle again, but that God is faithful to forgive and cleanse when you come honestly.

Confession also strengthens the community's rebuilding work. Hidden sin quietly drains courage, clarity, and joy; confessed sin makes room for peace, restored relationships, and renewed purpose. As you confess, receive forgiveness as a fact rooted in Jesus' cross—not as a mood you have to manufacture.

- What am I currently tempted to hide from God or others?
- How has shame shaped the way I think God sees me?
- Who is a trusted, mature believer I could invite into honest accountability?
- After confessing, what does it look like to accept God's forgiveness instead of replaying guilt?
- Take action: write a simple confession prayer and end it with gratitude for God's cleansing.

DAY 3

NEHEMIAH 1:4-7

Before Nehemiah rebuilt anything, he mourned, fasted, and prayed. He let the brokenness become a holy discontent that drove him to God rather than to despair. This is leadership in the deepest sense: not rushing to fix, but first bowing low to seek the Lord's heart and align with His covenant love.

Nehemiah's prayer includes confession—"we have sinned"—and that posture matters. Renewal rarely begins with blaming others; it begins with humility that says, "Lord, start with me." When your heart aches for what's broken—in your home, your city, your church, or your own life—God can use that ache as an invitation into partnership with Him.

Today is about prayerful dependence. Planning and action will come, but spiritual rebuilding must be rooted in surrender. Ask God to replace anxious control with trusting intercession, and to give you courage to care without carrying the weight alone.

- What burden or sadness has God placed on my heart that I've been avoiding?
- Where do I need to shift from complaining to praying specifically and consistently?
- What would fasting from one comfort (time, media, spending) create space for in my life?
- How can I include confession in my prayers without falling into self-condemnation?
- Pray for one "Jerusalem" in your life (family, school, workplace, neighborhood) by name today.

DAY 4

NEHEMIAH 4:14

Rebuilding always attracts resistance. Nehemiah faced ridicule, threats, and exhaustion, yet he called the people to remember the Lord—great and awesome—and to stand together. Perseverance is not stubborn grit; it's steady faith anchored in God's character when fear tries to rewrite your future.

In the sermon, the image was clear: they worked by day and guarded by night, staying alert and staying united. That same posture applies spiritually. We build with a trowel in one hand and "watchfulness" in the other—doing the next faithful thing while refusing to be naïve about discouragement, temptation, or division.

Perseverance grows when you stop fighting alone. God often strengthens us through shared purpose, clear communication, and mutual support. If you feel worn down, it may be an invitation not to quit, but to tighten your connection to the body of Christ and to remember: the work is God's, and He is present in it.

- What form of opposition do I face most often—fear, distraction, criticism, fatigue, temptation, or doubt?
- What does it look like for me to "remember the Lord" in the middle of pressure?
- Where have I been trying to rebuild alone instead of asking for help?
- What is one practical boundary that would help me stay watchful (sleep, phone limits, accountability, schedule)?
- Choose one person to encourage today who is doing faithful, often unseen work.

DAY 5

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-14

God's restoring work is communal. In Nehemiah, names mattered, families served, and the wall rose through full participation—side by side. The church is similar: not a crowd of spectators but a body where every member is essential, seen, and needed for health and mission.

The service emphasized unity in diversity, clear communication, and shared responsibility. When we withhold our gifts, the body is hampered; when we offer them, the whole church becomes stronger and the work advances “brick by brick.” Full participation isn't about proving yourself—it's about responding to grace with availability.

End this devotional by moving from inspiration to embodiment. Surrender leads to service, and service becomes a witness. Ask the Lord where you fit in the rebuilding—through prayer, hospitality, generosity, mentoring, teaching, creativity, or quiet faithfulness—and step into it with joy, trusting that God uses ordinary obedience to bring real restoration.

- Where have I been more of a spectator than a participant in the life of the church?
- What gifts or strengths has God given me that could bless others right now?
- What insecurity or comparison keeps me from serving freely?
- What is one concrete next step toward involvement (join a team, small group, prayer gathering, discipleship path)?
- Pray: “Lord, make me faithful in my part of the wall, and teach me to build with love for those around me.”



THANK YOU

For Completing Our
5 Day Devotional

As you close this five-day journey, thank you for taking the time to slow down and sit with God's Word. My prayer is that these moments of reflection have given you space to listen, surrender, and notice where God may be inviting you into deeper restoration. The work of rebuilding doesn't end here—it continues in the ordinary choices you make each day, one prayer, one act of obedience, and one faithful step at a time. Keep building on the firm foundation of Jesus, keep showing up with humility and perseverance, and remember that you are not rebuilding alone. God is with you, and He is faithfully at work in and through you.