

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

Then I said to them (the people of Jerusalem), "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work.

Nehemiah 2:17-18 (NIV)

❖ The PURPOSE of God's Community:

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...

Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

1. The Purpose of God's Community is that we share a COMMON UNITY.

Eliashib the high priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the Sheep Gate. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel. The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zaccur son of Imri built next to them.

Nehemiah 3:1-2 (NIV)

2. The Purpose of God's Community is understanding it's not about ME but about US.

The Fish Gate was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him Meshullam son of Berekiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs, and next to him Zadok son of Baana also made repairs. The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.

Nehemiah 3:3-5 (NIV)

3. The Purpose of God's Community is to bring GLORY to GOD.

The Jeshanah Gate was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. Next to them, repairs were made by men from Gibeon and Mizpah--Melatiah of Gibeon and Jadon of Meronoth--places under the authority of the governor of Trans-Euphrates.

Nehemiah 3:6-7 (NIV)

❖ The PEOPLE of God's Community:

But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

1 Corinthians 12:24b-25 (NIV)

1. The People of God's Community have many UNIQUE TALENTS.

Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section; and Hananiah, one of the perfume-makers, made repairs next to that. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

Nehemiah 3:8 (NIV)

2. The People of God's Community have a great COMMITMENT to SERVE.

Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters.

Nehemiah 3:11-12 (NIV)

3. The People of God's Community were willing to SHARE the LOAD

Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest. Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the entrance of Eliashib's house to the end of it. The repairs next to him were made by the priests from the surrounding region."

Nehemiah 3:20-22 (NIV)

- ❖ The PRIORITY of God's Community:

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:16 (NIV)

1. To Rebuild the wall for GOD'S GLORY.
2. To Rebuild the wall for THEIR PROTECTION.
3. To Rebuild the wall as a WITNESS to God's PRESENCE for others.