

Don't be Paralyzed—Get Organized

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Nehemiah 3.

B. Nehemiah is about putting a life together again after some ruin and illusion.

II. God has not forgotten our names.

III. We need and must seek help from each other. (I Corinthians 12, Romans 12)

A. As a Christian, one can no longer say that he does not need another and that another does not need him.

B. All the people worked together in Nehemiah to rebuild the gates.

IV. Core principles for working together.

A. Everyone worked.

1. The ministry belongs to everybody.

2. The church is harmed when not everyone works.

B. They worked beyond their requirement.

C. They worked near their homes.

1. God has placed us all strategically right where He wants us to be.

2. Our ministry is wherever we are.

D. Each completed his assigned task. The mark of spiritual maturity is always responsibility.

V. Rebuilding the gates is a picture of rebuilding the areas of danger in our lives.

A. There is a legitimate way of seeing types in Scripture.

B. The Sheep Gate.

1. Sheep are a symbol of sacrifice.

2. This is where we begin our Christian life.

3. The principle of death must be worked out in our life—we are not our own as we are called to obey and follow Christ.

C. The Fish Gate.

1. This becomes a symbol of reaching out to others—of witnessing.
2. We are called to be fishers of men.

D. The Old Gate.

1. This represents the old ways of truth versus the new illusions of error.
2. Scripture calls us back to the old ways. (Jeremiah 6)
3. This is a call to come back to the basics of life.

E. The Valley Gate.

1. The valley always pictures a place of humility and the judgment of conceit.
2. Humility is the rarest and fairest of Christian virtues.
3. God resists the proud.
4. The primary goal of a believer is to maintain a sense of his own humility.

F. The Dung Gate.

1. This is the gate of elimination.
2. We must deal with secret sin in order to operate as God wants.

G. The Fountain Gate.

1. This speaks of a fountain of water springing up. (John 7)
2. This is the Spirit-filled life overflowing to others.

H. The Water Gate.

1. This gate reminds us of the need for the Word of God.
2. The Word never needs repair but to be re-inhabited.

I. The Horse Gate.

1. This is always a symbol of battle in Scripture.
2. We must be ready for the battle.

J. The East Gate.

1. This speaks of hope.

2. The Messiah would return through this gate.
3. God has yet a glory ahead—the story does not end in tragedy.

K. The Inspection Gate.

1. This is the gate of appointment.
2. We must learn about our lives as they really are.
3. It is not a place of condemnation but the giving of rewards. (I Corinthians 3)

L. We end at the Sheep Gate again—the life of God begins and ends with the cross.

Application questions:

1. What are the core principles of working together, and are these as essential for Christians as they were for Jews rebuilding the walls?

2. Why is it important that the author begin and end with the Sheep Gate according to the speaker? Explain.

3. Which gate is most relevant to you today? Why?
