

Trust God and Take Precautions Nehemiah 4.7-9

If you are sick, do you pray and ask God to heal you miraculously, do you take medicine, or do you do both?

If you are looking for a job, do you pray and ask God to open up opportunities supernaturally and wait for someone to call, do you go through the normal job searching process, or do you do both?

I. Faith acts in human ways to accomplish its goal

4:9 - "we set a watch day and night" -

4:13 "positioned men"

4:12 – the Jews told Nehemiah (10x)

- They were building a PHYSICAL wall, even while they were asking God to protect them.

Isn't God able to protect the people of God without walls of Jerusalem? Yes, but He commands Nehemiah while in Persia to go and rebuild the walls. Nehemiah is doing the natural, but in doing the natural, God is doing the supernatural.

See Acts 28:7-9 (v.8 – "healed" means miraculous, divine healing; v.9 – "healed" is therapeuo (we get "therapy" from this word) and means "cured")

Paul writes in 1 Timothy 5:23 that Timothy needed medicine for his stomach ailments.

See James 2:14-17 (see the practical connection of faith and works)

See Romans 13:1-4 (God protects by means of law enforcement)

See Romans 13:14 – "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provisions for the flesh." A person prays, "God deliver me from this sinful habit," but we continue to do the physical things that set us up for failure.

One motto stated, "He who would not fall down ought not to walk in slippery places."

II. Faith stays ready for battle

4:16 – Half worked and half guarded

4:17 – one hand was used for construction and one hand held a weapon

See Ephesians 6:10-17 (we are in a spiritual battle)

One WWII rallying cry was "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition!"

Oliver Cromwell once said, "We will trust God and keep our gun powder dry."

III. Faith sees God's hand in human circumstances

- 4:15 "God had brought their plot to nothing"
- 4:20b "Our God will fight for us"