

Unity

² Then Sanballat and Geshem sent a message to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together at Chephirim in the plain of Ono." But they were planning to harm me. ³ So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"

Nehemiah 6:2-3 (NASB)

Observation

One of the most powerful forces on the planet is a group of people with a unified commitment. Unity is one of the most powerful things a church can have. Jesus understood this and prayed that the church would walk in unity. The enemy understands that if he can break us apart that a disunified church has no strength.

The enemy tried to get among the people and create problems so that they would have to stop rebuilding the walls. The great thing is, Nehemiah does not give his enemy any room to slow him down. He tells them that the work he is doing is too great to get distracted by them. He refused to stop and entertain the negative voices around him. This is a great reminder to us today.

As a church, we need to be committed and move forward together. The work we are doing is too great to **allow** anything to distract us or to cause us to stop working. Each person must guard and protect the unity of the church. We cannot **allow** anything to come between us or to give the enemy a foothold. Our desire as a church is to move forward together in unity - that we keep the Open: Next Chapter vision in front of us and refuse to **allow** anything to distract us.

Application

Spend time praying for the unity of the church. Pray for those in the church you have relationship with. Pray that the enemy would find no room to create confusion or division in the church.

Isaiah 54:17 (NASB) - "No weapon that is formed against you **will** prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you **will** condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD.