

# Dealing With Discouragement

Nehemiah was a man who probably had no idea how complicated life could get. He took on a project that had all the appearance of being harmless, innocent, and rather simple. After all, what could be difficult about building a wall around a city (Nehemiah 2:5)? It seemed that Nehemiah would be able to have that wall completed in just a few weeks; then he would go back to Persia and resume his life. Not so!

He looked over the shoulders of those workmen he knew he was dealing with a mess (Nehemiah 4:1-23)! In fact, the more he tried to alleviate the problem, the greater it became. There was sarcasm, mockery, opposition, criticism, and conspiracy. The conspiracy was so great that discouragement inevitably appeared. No matter how hard he tried, Nehemiah was unable to correct the problems. They just got worse.

Discouragement is inevitable. Anyone who is serious about serving God and fighting discouragement should study the life of Paul. In 2 Corinthians 4:7-10, Paul was describing the treasure of the gospel and how it is housed in our frail, human bodies. There is no power or strength in a clay pot: it is fragile, ugly, and it often leaks. The power does not come from the pot, but from what the pot contains.

Any class that is designed for teaching people how to sell will tell you that you cannot constantly hear negativism without having some of it rub off on you. When someone is discouraged, it cannot help but rub off on others so we are going to examine discouragement in the next two articles and learn how to overcome it.

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