

“What to Do, When You Don’t Know What to Do”

God has always used **imperfect** people to do incredible things.

Nehemiah

King **Artaxerxes**

Nehemiah 1:2-3 NLT

Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem. They said to me, “Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire.”

What do you do when you **don’t know** what to do?

Here’s what Nehemiah did...

#1. You sit down and **cry**.

Nehemiah 1:4 NLT

When I heard this, **I sat down and wept.**

#2. You kneel down to **pray**.

Nehemiah 1:4b-6 NLT

In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and **prayed** to the God of heaven. Then I said, “O LORD, God of heaven listen to my **prayer!** Look down and see me **praying night and day** for your people Israel.

#3. Stand up and **act**.

Nehemiah 2:3-4a NLT

“Long live the king! How can I not be sad? For the city where my ancestors are buried is in ruins, and the gates have been destroyed by fire.” The king asked, “Well, how can I help you?”

Nehemiah 2:4b-5 NLT

With a prayer to the God of heaven, I replied, “If it please the king, and if you are pleased with me, your servant, send me to Judah to rebuild the city where my ancestors are buried.”

Nehemiah 2:6 NLT

The king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked, “How long will you be gone? When will you return?” After I told him how long I would be gone, the king agreed to my request.

#4. You can expect **opposition**.

Nehemiah 4:1-2NLT

Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, saying in front of his friends and the Samaritan army officers, “What does this bunch of poor, feeble Jews think they’re doing?”

Nehemiah 4:3 NLT

Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, “That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!”

Nehemiah 6:2-3 NLT

So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me, so I replied by sending this message to them: “I am engaged in a **great work**, so I can’t come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?”

Nehemiah 6:15-16 NLT

So on October 2 the wall was finished—just **fifty-two days** after we had begun. When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.

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Christ’s Church of Marion County

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Years since the wall was destroyed. 92

Years the people were stuck there. 92

Years of failure. 92

Years of broken dreams. 92

Days to rebuild the wall. 52

#1. You sit down and cry.

#2. You kneel down to pray.

#3. Stand up and act.

#4. You can expect opposition.

#5. You give God the glory.

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