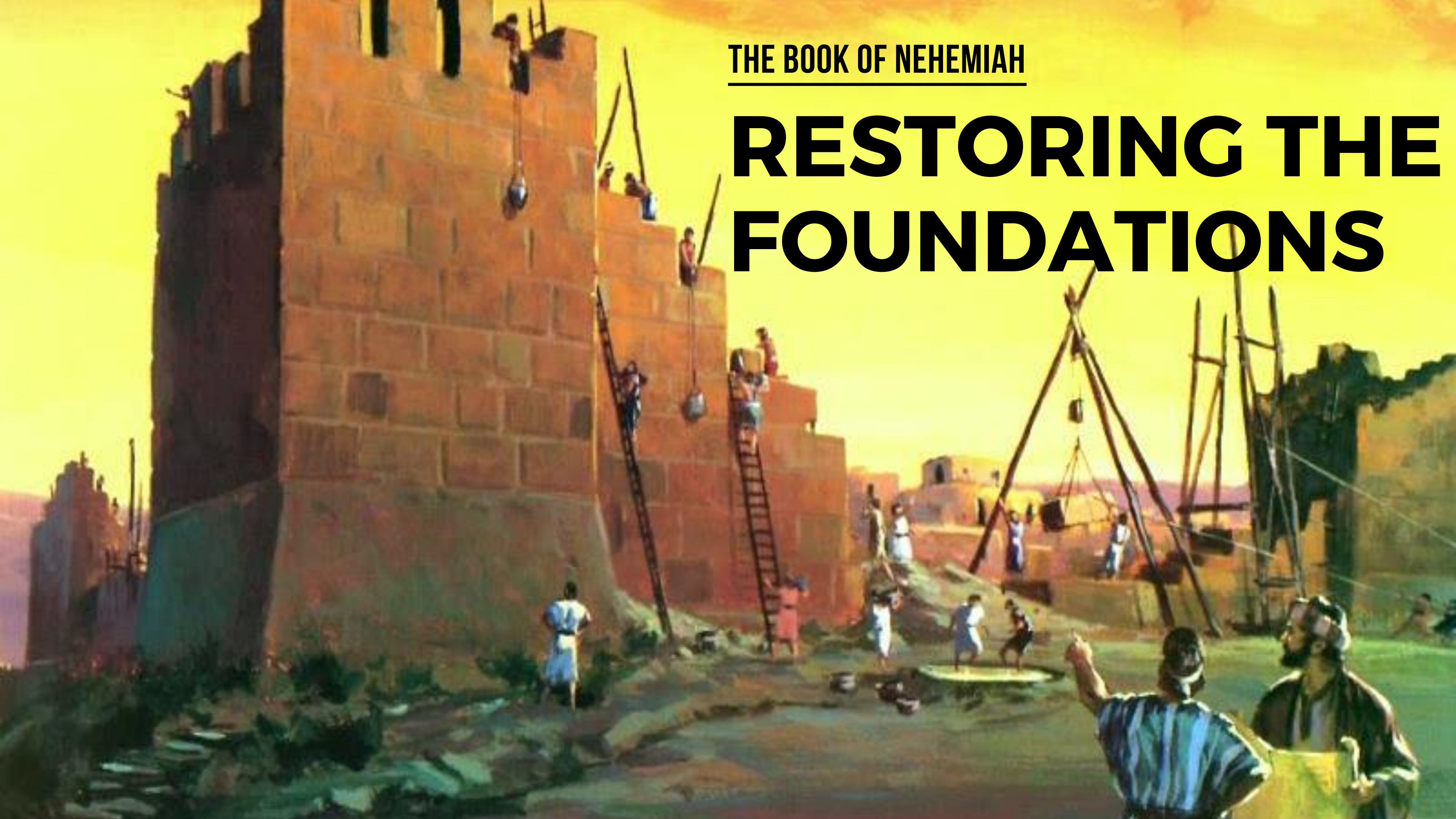


THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

RESTORING THE FOUNDATIONS






THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH **RESTORING THE FOUNDATIONS**

Sign the petition
to ask for the
release of 22-
year-old Ehsan
Shan

<https://bit.ly/4eyiS3p>





**1. WE CAN OVERCOME
OPPOSITION BY
RECOGNISING ITS REALITY
Nehemiah 4:1-3**

British Christians may encounter opposition in daily life including workplace discrimination & challenges to faith in secular environments:

- **Workplace Discrimination and Dismissals - 2013 Nadia British Airways employee**
- **2018 Ashers Bakery Case - Sued for discrimination, UK Supreme Court ruled for freedom of conscience.**
- **Christian Teachers Under Fire for Traditional Beliefs**
- **Christian Students and Faith-Based Clubs - 2019, Exeter University CU**
- **Street Preachers Arrested for 'Hate Speech'**
- **Silent Prayer Arrests at Abortion Clinics**

- **John 15:18-25** Jesus says “*world hated me so it will hate you*”
- **1 Peter 4:12-19** “*don’t be surprised*”
- Jesus says forgive your enemies, love those who persecute you
Matt 5:44, Luke 6:27-28
- Paul says forgive Rom 12:17-19 don’t take revenge, get rid of
bitterness, rage, anger Eph 4:31
- Peter says “Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the
contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so
that you may inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:9
- James says confess any sin to receive healing James 5:16



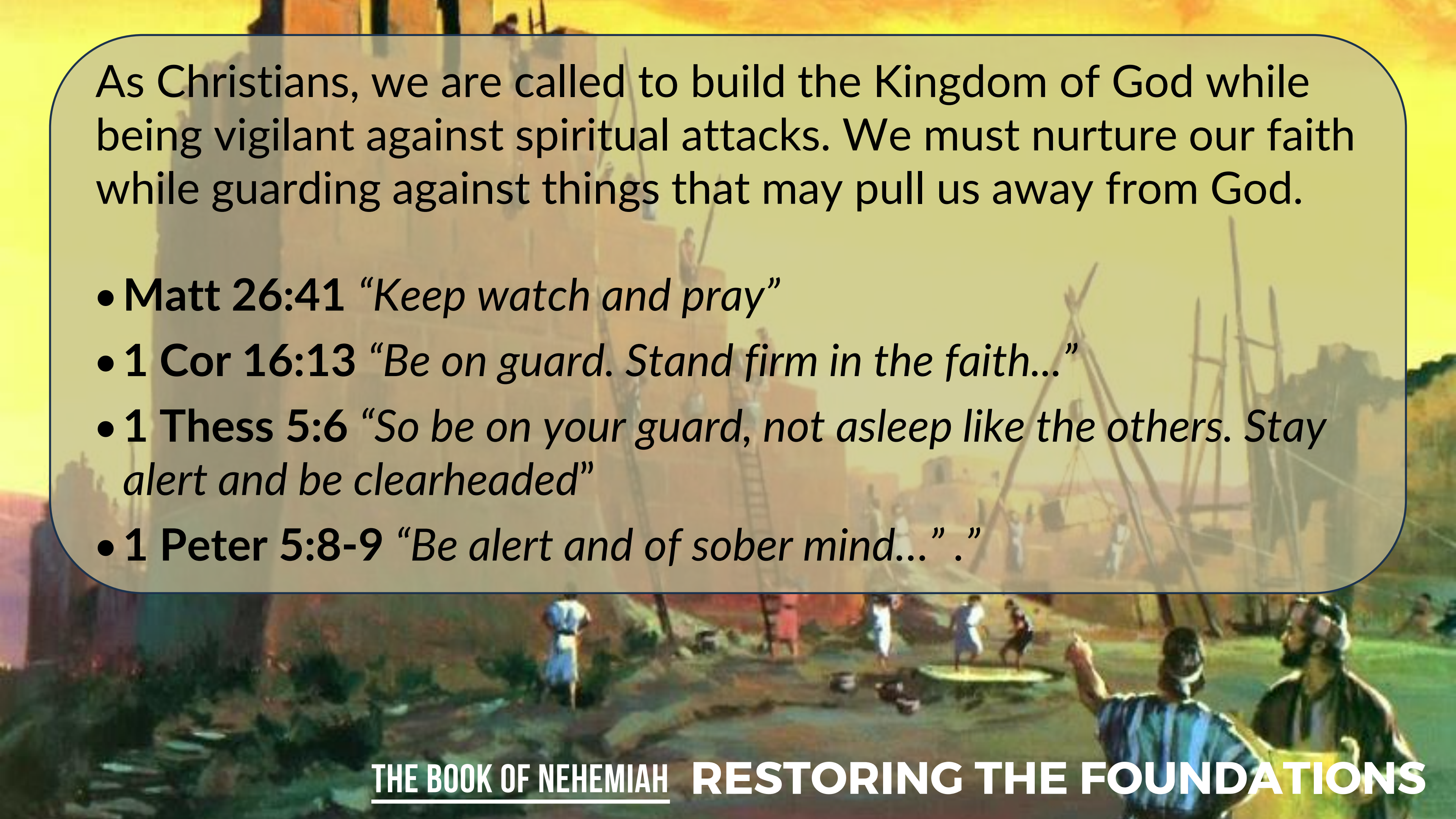
**2. WE CAN OVERCOME
OPPOSITION BY PRAYER &
PREPARATION
Nehemiah 4:4-6, 9**



The importance of turning to God when we face opposition—
whether spiritual or practical.


Prayer is our first response, not a last resort!

Building and Guarding Simultaneously Neh 4:15-23



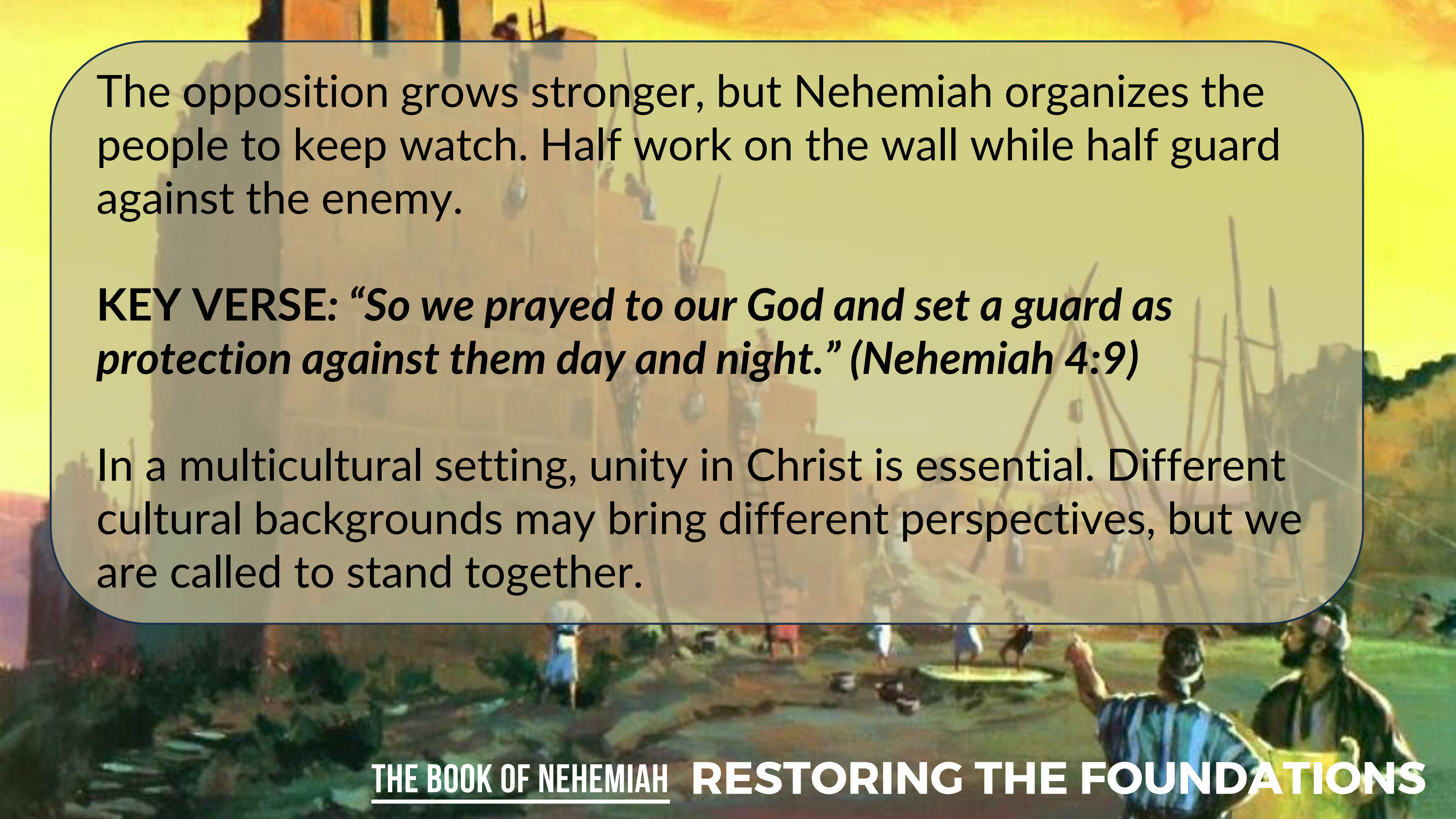
As Christians, we are called to build the Kingdom of God while being vigilant against spiritual attacks. We must nurture our faith while guarding against things that may pull us away from God.

- **Matt 26:41** *“Keep watch and pray”*
- **1 Cor 16:13** *“Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith...”*
- **1 Thess 5:6** *“So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded”*
- **1 Peter 5:8-9** *“Be alert and of sober mind...” .”*



**3. WE CAN OVERCOME
OPPOSITION BY OUR UNITY**
Nehemiah 4:7-9

THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH RESTORING THE FOUNDATIONS



The opposition grows stronger, but Nehemiah organizes the people to keep watch. Half work on the wall while half guard against the enemy.

KEY VERSE: *“So we prayed to our God and set a guard as protection against them day and night.” (Nehemiah 4:9)*

In a multicultural setting, unity in Christ is essential. Different cultural backgrounds may bring different perspectives, but we are called to stand together.

Sharing Spiritual Gifts – DIVERSE BUT UNITED

Our diverse congregation can bring different spiritual gifts shaped by our cultural backgrounds.

- African members - strong emphasis on prayer and intercession, deep faith and passion.
- Eastern European Christians - often emphasise the importance of scripture reading and discipleship.
- Caribbean and Asian families - bring strong traditions of hospitality and fellowship to deepen relationships.
- British Christians - a sense of justice and fairness, strong teaching gifts and historically sent out missionaries into the nations.

Overcoming Opposition in early church - **DIVERSE BUT UNITED**

- **Phil 1:17-28** standing together as ONE for the sake of the Gospel
- **John 17:21** as ONE *“I pray that they will all be one.”*
- **Acts 4:21, 29-30** threatened them further then response of disciples for boldness

A HEALTHY CHURCH IS LIVING PROOF THAT CHRIST BREAKS DOWN THE WALLS OF DIVISION.



Each age group can contribute to New Life community taking into account their unique abilities and developmental stages:

1. Preschool

Drawings or Artwork to express themselves through art.

“Thank You” Notes: With some help from parents or teachers, they can dictate or write short phrases like “Thank you” or “I love you” in their own language, sharing gratitude and love.

2. Younger Primary Age

Handwritten Notes: They can write short messages of kindness or encouragement, either in their native language or in the language of the congregation, to show care for others.

Simple Prayers: They can write simple prayers or blessings for the community, showing their growing spiritual connection.

Small Donations: They can put in small donations they might have saved from their pocket money, teaching them the value of generosity and sharing.

3. Older Primary Age

This age group can write short stories or reflections about their experiences in their culture or what they appreciate about being in a diverse community.

Poems or Songs: They might create poems or songs that celebrate unity, friendship, or cultural diversity, showing their creativity and growing awareness of others.


Handmade Crafts: They can create simple crafts like friendship bracelets, bookmarks, cards or other items that reflect their culture or their values.

4. Teenagers

Cultural Recipes: They might contribute a favourite family recipe, sharing a dish from their cultural background that others in the congregation could try at home.

Personal Experiences: They can write about challenges and positive experiences they have had being part of a multicultural group, fostering understanding and empathy.

Volunteering: Teens might volunteer for a congregational event or a cause that promotes unity, awareness or service across cultures.



**4. WE CAN OVERCOME
OPPOSITION BY OVERCOMING
FEAR WITH FAITH
Nehemiah 4:10-14**

Fear can often paralyze us, but we must remember that God fights for us. In facing opposition, we must draw on His strength, not just our own.

- **Deut 31:6** *“be strong & courageous....he will never leave you nor forsake you”*
- **Psalm 27:14** *“Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the LORD.”*
- **Psalm 31:24** *“Be strong, take courage in your heart all of you whose hope is in the Lord”*

Promise of Jesus John 14:27-28 NLT

CONCLUSION:

SO HOW DO WE RESPOND?

**HOW DO WE NEED TO APPLY THIS
TO OUR LIVES THIS WEEK?**

