

WHEN DO WE ACCEPT CHALLENGES?

Neh. 4

1. ELIJAH'S CHALLENGE

2. KNOWING WHEN TO FIGHT OR TO ACCEPT CHALLENGES
 1. Some are know as fighters; fight at the drop of a hat.
 2. Accept all challenges.

3. WHEN DO WE ACCEPT CHALLENGES?
 1. My honor is at stake.
 2. My masculinity is challenged--ego challenged.
 3. Don't ever dare me!
 1. The game of chicken.
 2. Saying no--taking a stand.
 4. The risk of being different.

4. I AM DOING A GREAT WORK SO THAT I CANNOT COME DOWN
 1. Why should the work cease, while I leave it and come down to you?
 2. The distractions of the enemy.
 1. Ridicule: "What do these feeble Jews?"
 2. Criticism: "If a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall."
 3. Putting out brush fires: Majoring on minors; minoring on majors.
 4. Being overwhelmed by the task
 1. The work is great.

2. The opposition is too much.

5. Separateness and disunity.

1. We are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

2. In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

5. WHAT IS THIS GREAT WORK?

1. Is the work of God to destroy the enemy?

1. There is a work to be done which is hindered by the enemy.

2. When we destroy the work of the devil, we destroy his power to oppose.

3. This frees us to do the works of God.

2. The work of God is to build.

3. Are we in the business of building or tearing down?

1. Destroying or bringing life?

2. Guilty of criticism or edification?

3. What comes out of our mouth?

1. Good or evil?

2. Bitter or sweet?

4. There are times we may need to sound aloud the trumpet.

1. but what our world needs are some answers.

2. We need solutions, not amplification the problems.

6. THE WORK MUST NEVER STOP

1. Watch and labor.

1. Everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.

2. So we labored into the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.
 3. Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labor on the day.
 4. So neither I nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing.
2. We made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.