

**BEWARE!** :: BUILDINGS, COMMUNITIES AND  
INDIVIDUALS UNDER CONSTRUCTION



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**Under Construction:**  
Builders who are built (Neh 4.1-6)

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## Introduction

When we're 'under construction' we don't always notice the progress unless we look back:

- We're not where we want to be, but we're also not where we used to be.
- I'm not where I want to be, but I'm also not where I used to be.

## ***Nehemiah 4.1-6 (NIV)***

<sup>1</sup>When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, <sup>2</sup>and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?”

<sup>3</sup>Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”

## ***Nehemiah 4.2 (NIV)***

A: What are those feeble Jews doing?

B: Will they restore their wall?

C: Will they offer sacrifices?

B': Will they finish in a day?

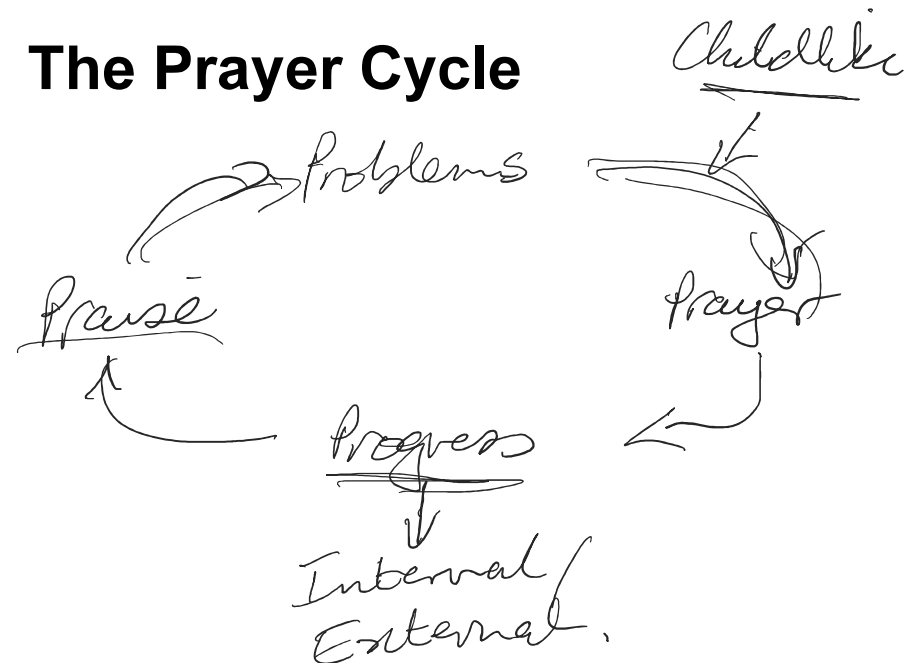
A': Can they bring the stones back to life..?

## ***Nehemiah 4.1-6 (NIV)***

<sup>4</sup>Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. <sup>5</sup>Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders. (...they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders. ESV)

<sup>6</sup>So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

## **The Prayer Cycle**



## ***1 Peter 2.4-6 (NIV)***

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup>you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

<sup>6</sup>For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.”

## **Conclusion**

"When I look at myself I don't see how I can be saved, but when I look at Christ, I don't see how I can be lost." Matt Smethurst

We might also say: When we look at ourselves (as the church), we don't see how we can succeed, but when we look at Christ, we don't see how we can fail!