

PRAYING & POSTING A GOAL FOR 2023

Nehemiah 4:6-14
January 1, 2023

And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night. - Nehemiah 4:9

I. NEHEMIAH: A HISTORY

- Lived approximately five centuries prior to Christ.
- Was cupbearer to the Persian king Artaxerxes.
- Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians 145 years prior.
- Came to Jerusalem with a single purpose: rebuild the wall.
- Endured much opposition from the surrounding nations.

II. PRAY OR ACT?

- There are some tensions when it comes to praying and working:
 1. How does prayer impact an all-knowing and sovereign God?
 2. Does our action negate faith?
 3. Should we “let go and let God?”
- Nehemiah was a man of prayer. He was also a man of action. The Scriptures encourage us to be both (Joshua 1:6; Judges 6:4; Esther 4:14; Col. 3:23).

III. A VISION FOR LIFEPOINT CHURCH

1. Let us be a _____ church.
2. Let us be _____, but not _____.
3. Let us hold to clear _____ distinctives.
4. Let us be _____ about all truth.
5. Let us continue to be a missions _____ church.
6. Let us _____ for one another in the faith.
7. Let us be an _____ and _____ church.

KNOW: As Nehemiah and his countrymen prayed to God and posted a guard, let us strive in 2023 to be a church that prays, and then after praying, does the work necessary to see those prayers come to pass.

DO: Pray to God. Post your guard.

Suggested Reading:

George Mueller: The Life of Trust (Available in the LifePoint Library)

A Praying Life: Connecting With God in a Distracting World by Paul E. Miller (Available in the LifePoint Library)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Nehemiah 4:6-14

1. Do you feel any tension in your life between prayer and action?
2. I used Gideon, Esther, Joshua, and Paul as biblical examples of men and women who combined prayer and action. Can you think of other examples, both biblical and extra-biblical?
3. What characteristics set Nehemiah apart from most people?
4. How can LifePoint be a church with clear biblical teaching while maintaining a loving community and a welcoming spirit?
5. I mentioned seven points of vision for LifePoint in the message Sunday. Are they good points? Are they biblical? Did I leave something out?
6. How can LifePoint improve at being a church marked by prayer? Any ideas?