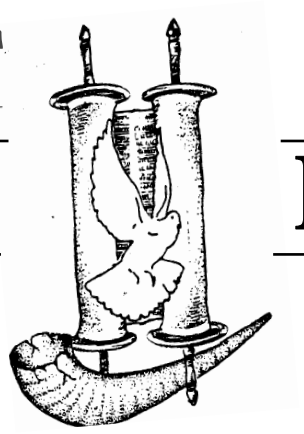
GELOOF FAITH

In Die Woord In The Word



Geloof is uit die gehoor en die gehoor is deur die Woord van God Rom. 10:17

Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Rom. 10:17

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n NUWE BEGIN IN 2026

As ons die nuwe jaar betree, sien ons dikwels terug op wat verby is en kyk vooruit na wat voorlê. Dit is ’n tyd van refleksie, nuwe doelwitte en vars begin. Hierdie Januarie wil ons jou aanmoedig om die jaar by God te begin, jou hart by Hom neer te lê en vertroue te hê dat Hy die planne in jou lewe sal vervul. Die verhaal van Nehemía herinner ons dat God selfs gewone mense kan gebruik om buitengewone dinge te doen en hierdie jaar kan Hy ook deur jou werk, stap vir stap, gebed vir gebed.

’n Gewone Man: Nehemía 1–2

God het nog nooit groot of magtige mense nodig gehad om Sy planne uit te voer nie. Hy soek mense wat hulle ore spits vir Sy stem, mense wat bereid is om Hom te gehoorsaam, hoe klein hulle ook al voel. Hy kies nederige mense wat bid. Só was Nehemía en só kan jy en ek wees.

God gebruik ’n gewone man

Nehemía was “die seun van Hakalía” ’n gewone man, geen priester of koning nie. Maar God het hom gebruik om die mure van Jerusalem te herbou. Dieselfde God wat Nehemía gebruik het, wil ook jou lewe gebruik hierdie jaar. Dit beteken dat geen doel te groot of taak te klein is vir God nie. Hierdie nuwe jaar kan ’n tyd wees waar jy jou gewone self by God in die hande plaas en Hy iets buitengewoons deur jou doen. Paulus herinner ons in 1 Korintiërs 1:27:
“Maar wat dwaas is by die wêreld, het God uitverkies om die wyse te beskaam; en wat swak is by die wêreld, het God uitverkies om die sterk te beskaam.”

Nuus wat ’n hart breek

In Susan, die Persiese winterpaleis, hoor Nehemía dat Jerusalem in puin lê (Nehemía 1:3). Sy stadsmure was afgebreek en sy poorte verbrand. Soos Nehemía kan ons soms begin die jaar met uitdagings of teleurstellings. Maar sy voorbeeld leer ons om ons hart en bekommernisse na God toe te bring, nie paniek of moedeloosheid nie. Begin die jaar met gebed, want dit is die fundament waarop God se werk in jou lewe sal staan.

Die PAD van gebed in die nuwe jaar

Nehemía se gebed kan vir ons ’n gids wees vir Januarie en die hele jaar. Onthou die PAD van gebed:

• P – Prioriteit: Begin by God en erken Sy soewereiniteit. (Nehemía 1:5)
• A – Aanbelydenis: Bring jou sondes en tekortkominge na Hom. (1:6–7; 1 Johannes 1:9)
• D – Deernis en Vertroue: Hou vas aan Sy beloftes. (1:9; Psalm 119:49)
• N – Nederigheid: Plaas jou versoeke nederig voor Hom. (1:11)

Hierdie nuwe jaar kan ’n tyd wees om jou eie PAD van gebed te loop, en te vertrou dat God jou sal lei soos Hy Nehemía gelei het.

God se tydsberekening

Nehemía het vier maande gewag voordat God die deur oopgemaak het. Ons kan dieselfde leer: die nuwe jaar mag wag vir antwoorde hê, maar in die wagtyd vorm God ons hart, ons geduld en ons geloof. Psalm 27:14 sê:
“Wag op die Here; wees sterk en laat jou hart sterk wees; ja, wag op die Here!”

Jesaja 40:31 herinner ons:
“Maar die wat op die Here wag, kry nuwe krag; hulle vlieg op soos arende. Hulle hardloop en word nie moeg nie; hulle wandel en word nie mat nie.”

En Klaagliedere 3:26 sê:
“Dit is goed om te wag op stilverwagtinge van die Here.”

Bouwerk begin

Wanneer die deur uiteindelik oopmaak, ondersoek Nehemía die mure en roep die volk om saam te bou (2:17–18). So kan ons hierdie jaar ook begin: nie met paniek oor alles wat verkeerd is nie, maar met geloof in wat God kan doen. Onthou: God se werk deur jou lewe hierdie jaar kan buitengewoon wees, selfs al begin dit stil en geleidelik.

Teenstand en vasbeslotenheid

Jy sal teenstand en uitdagings ervaar soos Nehemía, maar hou jou oë op God. Sy krag en planne sal alles oorwin. Hierdie jaar kan ’n jaar wees van dapper optrede, gebed en volharding soos Nehemía se voorbeeld.

Toepassing vir die nuwe jaar

• Plaas jou hart in God se hande en vertrou Sy leiding.
• Begin die jaar met gebed en nederige afhanklikheid.
• Wag op God se tyd en wees geduldig in jou groei.
• Hou vas aan Sy beloftes en wees vasberade in jou taak.

’n Gebed vir die Nuwe Jaar

Terwyl ons hierdie nuwe jaar begin, mag ons, soos Nehemía, leer om ons hart te bring voor God, om Sy leiding te vertrou en ons eie stene van geloof en gehoorsaamheid te bou. Mag 2026 ’n jaar wees van volharding, gebed en vreugde in Sy werk, waar jy sien hoe God iets buitengewoons doen deur jou gewone lewe. Kom ons stap die PAD van gebed, hou vas aan Sy beloftes, en laat Hom die mure van ons lewens herstel en versterk.



Bybels vir Mosambiek

Ons harte is oorvol dankbaarheid!

Danksy julle ongelooflike ondersteuning en getroue gebede is 140 pragtige hardeband, Portugese Bybels aangekoop en op 8 Desember suksesvol na Mosambiek gestuur saam met Pastoor David Gumede.

Elke Bybel is ’n saad van hoop en waarheid, en ons sien met groot verwagting uit daarna om volgende maand die goeie nuus, getuienisse en foto’s met julle te deel van hoe die Here hierdie uitreik gebruik het om lewens aan te raak.

Baie dankie aan elkeen wat gegee het, gebid het en saam met ons gestaan het. Julle gehoorsaamheid en oop harte maak ’n ewige verskil vir die uitbreiding van God se Koninkryk.

Mag die Here julle ryklik seën die beste lê nog voor!

UIT ONS KANTOOR

Geliefdes,

Terwyl ons die nuwe jaar betree, wil ons julle eerstens bedank vir julle wonderlike ondersteuning deur 2025. **“Vertrou op die Here met jou hele hart, en steun nie op jou eie insig nie; erken Hom in al jou weë, en Hy sal jou paaie gelyk maak.” — Spreuke 3:5-6**

Mag hierdie nuwe jaar ’n tyd wees waarin ons karakter en geloof sterker word, selfs wanneer ons nie alles sien wat God doen nie. Hou aan om reg te doen, goed te wees teenoor ander en jou beste te gee. Ons bid vir al die kinders wat terug skool toe gaan, mag God hulle lei, beskerm en in hul leer en spel seën. Mag 2026 ’n jaar wees van groei, geduld en nuwe vreugde vir ons almal.

Liefdegroete

Meg Van Zyl en die Gebedspan



OPPORTUNITY AND OPPOSITION

Nehemiah 3–4
Every generation of believers discovers that serving the Lord is both a privilege and a challenge. God graciously opens opportunities for His people to build, restore, and advance His kingdom purposes but with those opportunities always comes opposition. The story of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls gives us one of the clearest biblical portraits of this truth. It shows us what faithful leadership looks like, how God's people can work together, and how to endure when ridicule, threats, and discouragement are hurled against us.

Building with Willing Hands (Nehemiah 3)

Nehemiah's vision was clear: Jerusalem's walls needed to be rebuilt, both for the city's safety and for the honor of God's name. Chapter 3 records a long list of individuals and families who took part in the project. To the casual reader, it might seem like just another biblical genealogy but this is more than a roster of workers. It reveals the spirit and character of a people who joined together in God's work.

Notice first that they worked willingly. No one was forced into service; the people volunteered for whatever task was needed. Some repaired gates, others carried rubble, still others cleared debris. Even Eliashib the high priest rolled up his sleeves and labored with his fellow priests on the Sheep Gate (Nehemiah 3:1). Leaders didn't sit in lofty chairs while others did the dirty work, they joined the effort.

The list even includes goldsmiths, perfume makers, and rulers, people with no experience in construction. Uzziel the goldsmith and Hananiah the perfumer (3:8) probably never lifted a hammer before, but they were willing to learn and contribute. One ruler, Rephaiah, repaired a section himself (3:9). These were not masons or engineers, but they were available and ready. That is what mattered most.

This principle still holds true in the church today. God is not looking primarily for skill, but for willingness. As Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12, the body of Christ is made up of many different members, each with a part to play. Some may preach or teach; others may sweep floors, greet visitors, or serve unseen behind the scenes. All service counts when it is offered to the Lord with a willing heart.

Building with Zeal and Unity

Some names in the list stand out because of their zeal. Verse 20 highlights Baruch, who worked "zealously" on his section. Meremoth repaired two different portions of the wall (3:4, 21), and the men of Tekoa did the same (3:5, 27) even though their leaders refused to help. Verse 12 even records that Shallum, ruler of half Jerusalem, worked alongside his daughters. What a testimony of family commitment!

Nehemiah also used wisdom in his assignments: many workers were stationed near their own houses (3:10, 23, 28). That meant personal investment, after all, you work harder when the wall outside your own door is at stake! It also fostered accountability and pride in the quality of the work.

This was not a scattered effort; it was a united one. They worked side by side, each family or guild taking its place on the wall. Paul's words centuries later echo this same principle: "standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel" (Philippians 1:27). Unity in service multiplies effectiveness.

The Enemy Responds (Nehemiah 4)

Whenever God's people advance His purposes, opposition soon follows. Chapter 4 introduces us again to Sanballat and Tobiah, leaders of the surrounding nations who were determined to stop

the rebuilding project. Their tactics are familiar even to us today.

1. Verbal Ridicule
Sanballat mocked the Jews openly, sneering, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish?” (4:2). Tobiah joined in, saying their wall was so weak that even a fox could knock it down (4:3).

Mockery and scorn are still among Satan’s first weapons against God’s people. When believers step forward to live boldly for Christ, they can expect to be laughed at, belittled, or dismissed. Yet Nehemiah did not trade insult for insult. Instead, he took the matter to the Lord in prayer (4:4–5). His chief concern was not his own reputation, but God’s honor.

And then he simply kept going: “So we built the wall, and all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work” (4:6). Prayer and perseverance—that was Nehemiah’s answer to ridicule.

2. Physical Threats
When mockery didn’t stop the work, Sanballat and his allies plotted physical violence (4:7–8). This was no idle threat; it was a conspiracy to attack Jerusalem. But instead of abandoning the project in fear, the Jews combined prayer with practical preparation. Verse 9 says, “We prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.”

This balance is crucial. Nehemiah trusted God fully, but he also stationed guards, armed the workers, and created an alarm system with trumpets (4:16–20). Faith is never passive, it acts wisely while leaning on God’s protection.

3. Emotional Discouragement
Perhaps the most dangerous attack was not ridicule or threats, but the creeping discouragement within the people themselves. They began to say, “The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall” (4:10). Discouragement spreads like a disease. It magnifies problems, diminishes faith, and drains energy. Satan often whispers, “You’re too weak. The task is too big. You’ll never succeed.”

Nehemiah countered discouragement with faith-filled encouragement. He rallied the people: “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes” (4:14). He lifted their eyes from the rubble to their Redeemer, from the opposition to the God who was with them.

Lessons for Us Today
The story of Nehemiah’s builders is not just ancient history; it is a picture of how God’s people today are called to serve Christ’s kingdom.
1. Serve Willingly. Like goldsmiths and perfumers, we may feel unqualified but God delights to use willing hearts. Are we ready to say, “Lord, I’ll do whatever You ask”?
2. Serve Zealously. Some believers do the bare minimum; others, like Baruch and Meremoth, go the extra mile. Jesus deserves our best effort, not halfhearted service (Colossians 3:23).
3. Serve in Unity. The wall was built because everyone took their place. The church thrives when each believer contributes, no matter how big or small the task.
4. Expect Opposition. Ridicule, threats, and discouragement will always come. But like Nehemiah, we can respond with prayer, preparation, and perseverance.
5. Fix Your Eyes on God. Ultimately, Nehemiah’s strength came from remembering that “the Lord is great and awesome.” The same God who enabled Israel to finish the wall empowers us today to stand firm in Christ.

A Closing Challenge

Nehemiah’s people had the opportunity to build something that honored God, and they faced fierce opposition in doing so. We are called to the same kind of work, the Great Commission Jesus gave us (Matthew 28:18–20). It will require willing hands, zealous hearts, united effort, and steady courage.

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