



Daily Quiet Time Guide The Good Work, Week 4

Devotional Adapted From: Experiencing God's Victories...



HOW TO HAVE A DAILY QUIET TIME

The QT Guide is designed to help you MOVE with God through Bible Reading, reflection and prayer. It can be completed in about 7 minutes.

½ Minute Preparing Your Heart: Invest the first 30 seconds preparing your heart. You might pray, "Lord, cleanse my heart so You can speak to me through the Scriptures. Make my mind alert, my soul active, and my heart responsive. Surround me with Your presence during this time."

4 Minutes Listening to God: Take the next four minutes to read the Bible. Your greatest need is to hear a word from God. Allow the Word to strike fire in your heart. Meet the Author!

2.5 Minutes Talking to God: After God has spoken through His Book, then speak to Him in prayer.

DAY 1

Nehemiah 4:1-4

Has God given you any assignments recently?

God told Nehemiah to restore the city of Jerusalem. Nehemiah had to travel, find resources, motivate and inspire people. He had to organize, lead by example, build a wall, pray, and persevere.

Even when God is directing you to complete a work, it won't necessarily be easy to accomplish. God wants you to learn how to fully rely on Him. Obstacles do not always mean you have taken a wrong turn. When you are serving God with all of your heart, you will face many people who oppose you and God's work. Do not be afraid, discouraged, or quit.

Nehemiah was mocked by Tobiah and Sanballat who wanted him to feel defeated. Is anyone hurling insults at you?

It can be brutal when people attack your character, abilities, and efforts. Make sure the people working closely with you are on the same page. Protect unity.

Do not give people's insults too much power. Accusation and trash talk does hurt; but when people throw shade at you, become even more determined to shine the light of Jesus.

Consider: What challenges are you facing? How are you overcoming these difficulties? Are you operating in God's power and wisdom?

DAY 2

Nehemiah 4:4

There will be moments along your journey when you feel like there is no hope and the task is impossible. It is so important to choose to pray when you hit the low points in life. No one can ever take prayer away from you. God is always there, and He listens to your cry.

Nehemiah was despised and ridiculed, but that became fuel for his communication with God. Nehemiah knew that he should not take revenge against people who mistreated him, so he entrusted the final results and justice to God.

What areas of your life are you struggling with now?

Action Step: Take a few moments and pour your heart out to God. The Holy Spirit helps you to pray, even when you do not know what to say. God is powerful in your weakness.

DAY 3

Nehemiah 4:6

Are you serving God with all of your heart?

Victories usually begin with an inner battle. God gives you the ability and strength you need every day, but you decide how you want to respond to His direction.

In the Bible, many people were stubborn and worked halfheartedly. The result is that they missed opportunities and fell short of their potential. Nehemiah built unity and set a tone of full commitment to the Lord. A strong work ethic is contagious. If you are leading or parenting, the people following you will imitate your attitude and actions.

Consider: Are you holding back in any ways from giving the Lord all of your heart? Make a clear decision to honor God, and the progress and success will follow.

DAY 4

Nehemiah 4:8-9

Nehemiah was very realistic. He knew that a group of people wanted to physically harm him and he took precautions.

Have you ever faced persecution that included either dangerous people or threats? Many Christians around the world today are being killed, jailed, or beaten for their faith. People want to protect what's most valuable to them.

What are you protecting every day? Are you protecting people, time, resources, habits, pleasures or something else entirely? Nehemiah prayed and took a practical step of action by posting a guard. Having a guard did not mean Nehemiah stopped trusting God, instead He was being faithful to defend what God had entrusted to him. Ultimate protection does come from God, but God often involves us in the solutions.

Consider: Do you need to make any adjustments in your life or form a plan of protection?

DAY 5

Nehemiah 4:10-12

Who needs your encouragement today?

It has been said that we go faster alone but further together. There is strength in unity. Who in your life is reliable in supporting you and most dependable in keeping their word? Love includes sacrifice. True friendships and healthy marriages are built upon a foundation of unselfishness.

Nehemiah made sure that in his community everyone was ready to come help each other quickly when danger arose. Speak words of comfort today and reassure your loved ones that you will be there when they need you.

Consider: How can you create a deeper sense of togetherness and positive compassion where you live, serve, and work?

DAY 6

Nehemiah 4:4-14

Perseverance is an important element of following Jesus. How would you describe what Jesus endured? How does that inspire you on a daily basis?

Nehemiah knew morale was declining and fear was increasing among the community. Nehemiah was able to help them refocus on the Lord and His greatness.

Take some time today to reconnect with God and put your eyes back on Jesus. When you stare at your problems, they can be magnified and start to consume you. It is an intentional decision to remember the Lord and draw strength and courage from Him. As you abide with Jesus, He will enable you to finish the race and He will bring victory into your season of despair.

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.