



ARE YOU INTO REBUILDING AND REFURBISHING THINGS? DE-

BREAKING THE ICE

Are you into rebuilding and refurbishing things? Describe the process you've gone through to rebuild or redesign something.

Have you ever had a rebuilding year in your life? What did that look like?

MAIN CONTENT

Over the last few weeks, we've been talking about Nehemiah and rebuilding. The verse that has inspired us to rebuild is Isaiah 58:11.

Read Isaiah 58:11.

1. When you read this scripture about repairing, renewing and rebuilding, what does God stir in your heart to rebuild in your life?

The four stages of rebuilding are: own the problem, make a plan and work the plan, face opposition and finish strong.

The past few weeks, we've talked about owning the problem, making the plan and working the plan. This week, Pastor Kevin talked about facing opposition: how to get through it, and the forms it can take so we can recognize and overcome it.

2. Is it easy or hard to find the opposition in things you are struggling with in life? Explain.

To know what our opposition is, we need to know where it comes from. We live in a broken, fallen world. Things are not as God created them to be due to sin.

Read Ephesians 6:12.

When we read Ephesians 6:12, we know where our opposition truly comes from. We don't have to be afraid of the darkness and spiritual forces because Jesus has overcome them.

3. When someone talks about the spiritual realm, what do you envision? Is it easy or difficult to talk about the spiritual realm surrounding us?

Scripture teaches us the battle is on three fronts: the world, the flesh, the enemy.

Pastor Kevin said, "The world system is a treadmill of chasing wealth, power, prestige, position, and popularity for fulfillment and satisfaction. But here's the problem: the treadmill never ends. It just gets steeper and faster and we end up wearing ourselves out, chasing shadows until we die".

4. What have you been chasing in the world to satisfy you? How has that worked out for your life?

We are supposed to be in this world, but not of the world. We can't get stuck on the treadmill of wanting and needing things to fulfill us; that will just leave us empty. When we choose God's will over our wants and needs on the treadmill of life, He will fulfill us.

The second battle is of the flesh. The flesh is our old man, who we were before we started walking with Christ. It consists of our old attitudes, appetites, habits and memories. We battle to be different than we were; that battle happens between our flesh and our spirit that is aligned with Christ.

5. Do you have battles of the flesh you are struggling with currently, or that you have struggled with in the past? How have you overcome those battles?

The last battle we fight is with the enemy. The Bible tells us about a real enemy that tries to take us out. That enemy is Satan. Satan's primary objective is to disrupt your relationship with God, your relationship with others, and get you to disengage from God's calling on your life. He wants you to quit the thing God has called you to do. But God has called us to build our lives on Him and to rebuild the things that the enemy has tried to take away.

6. Where have you seen God move through something the enemy was trying to take away in your life?

The key to getting through opposition is commitment. Satan hates commitment. If we aren't committed to something, we flee. We run away and things never change. We are made in the image of the God who keeps His promises. God sees our commitments and helps us accomplish things through it.

Sometimes, we break our commitments to things and people because we can be easily offended. But, our opposition is the enemy, it is not people. Satan will use things people say and do to get in our heads and keep us from doing what God has for us.

Satan uses people to place doubt in our minds. In Nehemiah 2:19, we see where people doubted Nehemiah and tried to keep him from doing the rebuilding God had called him to. But Nehemiah replaced that doubt

with the promises of what God had called him to. (Nehemiah 2:20).

7. What doubts do you need to replace with the promises of God in your life?

The enemy will also try to discourage your resolve. In Nehemiah 4:3, we see where Tobiah came against Nehemiah, discouraging the work he was doing for God. Discouragement is a temporary loss of perspective.

In our discouragement, we need to go to God and ask Him for help to remember our “why.” We overcome discouragement when we can remember our “why.”

The last thing the enemy does is distract us. Not everything he distracts us with is bad, but it keeps our focus off what God has called us to do. Opportunities, relationships, entertainment, video games, social media, hobbies, politics, and other seemingly good things can become ultimate things that take us away from our calling.

In Nehemiah 6, we see where Nehemiah refused to be distracted from what God was calling him to do. We need to choose to do the same. The stronger your commitment to something, the easier it is to say “no” to smaller distractions that come your way.

8. What is your “why” right now? What do you need to eliminate to keep discouragement and distraction from taking you off course?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, You reign over everything. Please give us fresh perspective for what You have for our lives. Help us to eliminate the distraction, discover where the discouragement stems from, and remain strong in our “why” to follow Your plan for our lives. Help us support one another in the callings You have placed on our lives. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

Take time this week to go back and reflect on your “why” and what God has called you to do. Ask these questions:

- + What is my “why”?
- + What is currently distracting me to carrying out what God is asking me to rebuild in my life?
- + Are there any relationships, opportunities or things that are keeping me from doing what God has called me to do?