



"We have two options . . . boldly tackle the challenges ahead, or hold off and hope an asteroid strikes."

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## How To Tackle A Tough Task

Series: Nehemiah, #1

Nehemiah 2:1-20

Pastor Lyle L. Wahl

September 5, 2021

Theme: **Getting The Job Done Requires Active Faith.**

### **Pray In Faith To Sustain The Work.**

1. Persistent prayer. (2:1-4; see also. 1:1, 4, 6)
2. Patient prayer. (2:1; see also 1:1)

### **Plan In Faith To Prepare For The Work.**

1. First: state your objectives clearly and simply. (5)
2. Then: formulate your plans thoroughly. (6-9)

### **Proceed In Faith To Accomplish The Work.**

1. Move ahead when ready. (9, 11)
2. Survey the situation personally. (11-16)
3. Challenge others to join you. (17-18)
4. Confront the inevitable opposition. (9-10, 19-20)

## In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

**Monday.** All of us face tough tasks. List the ones you are facing now, as well as some from the recent past. Now briefly write out your response to each one. God teaches us through Nehemiah that *getting the job done requires active faith*. How are your responses matching up to this truth?

**Tuesday.** Nehemiah's active faith is seen in his ongoing prayer to sustain the work. Review his prayer back in 1:5-11 (also check the outline from chapter one and your notes) and couple it with 2:1-4. He was persistent and patient as well as earnest in his prayers. Comparing 2:1 with 1:1 tells us there were about four months of fasting and praying before God gave him an opening with the king. Persistent and patient prayer is an act of faith which God honors.

**Wednesday.** Nehemiah prayed about the tough task, but he also planned in faith. The record of 2:5-9 indicates he had been planning prior to the time the events began to unfold. As you pray in faith, make sure you ask God for wisdom to understand the tasks, and plan accordingly.

**Thursday.** Nehemiah prayed, planned *and* he proceeded in faith to complete the work. Read 2:9-20, following the four points from the outline. These four steps apply to all of us in all of our tough tasks.

**Friday – Saturday.** On Sunday we plan to look at chapter 3. Read and think through the chapter in preparation for our time together.