

**Study Questions for the August 2, 2020 Sermon:  
“Our Backup Plan is God’s Plan A”  
Nehemiah 4**

1. Verse 3 states that, when the wall builders were threatened with violence, Nehemiah prayed, and then posted a watch. Can you derive any spiritual principle from Nehemiah's response to this threat?
2. In verse 10 we learn that Nehemiah used ½ of the workers as armed guards. So in the middle of the project he lost half of his workforce, but still had to feed the entire workforce.
  - Can you cite other examples from scripture of leaders who carried out God’s will with far less resources than they wanted?
  - Why might God give us an assignment and then limit our resources?
3. Nehemiah assigned a trumpeter so that, if workers at one section of the wall came under attack, others could be alerted that help was needed. What spiritual principle did Pastor Paul derive from this?
4. Pastor Paul used a solid and hollow ball to illustrate the value of “strengthening our core” (nurturing, during times of peace, our spiritual life). How do we strengthen our core?
5. Due to the pandemic protocols, we are all working off of Plan B. Can we apply any lessons, learned from Nehemiah 1 through 4, to our situation?
6. Pastor Paul said that, during personal struggles, we can easily forget the struggles in which others are engaged. How can we ensure that we remember others when we are preoccupied with serious problems of our own?
7. Pastor Paul asked us to attempt a 3-step exercise?
  - Contemplate our internal weaknesses.
  - Look around at people near us and commit to praying for one or more.
  - Contact them during the week and let them know you were praying for them.

Is the first step necessary? If you answered “Yes”, explain why.