

A Forgotten Element of Success

In the book of Nehemiah we see a small remnant of God's people who have returned to rebuild the city of Jerusalem and its walls. The group is small, the work is large and the challenge is real. But the work is progressing for a reason that overcomes all the difficulties they face.

In chapter 4, we find the key to success, and it might not be what you expect. But first consider what the key to their success was **not**.

- It was not their knowledge of God's word (see chapter 8)
- It was not cooperation of their neighbors (see 4:1-3)
- It was not that they were in a wonderful, safe environment (in fact they were in danger from neighboring nations).
- It was not that there were lots of people to help (they were a small remnant)

So what was it that made the small remnant of people successful in their rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem? The answer is so beautifully clear in Nehemiah 4:6, "So we built the wall and the whole wall was joined together to half its height, ***for the people had a mind to work.***"

There it is – the out front *secret* that everyone knew - *the people had a mind to work!* All the good intentions in the world don't get work done. All the planning in the world doesn't get a job done. But wow – what a marvelous result came about when *the people had a mind to work.*

Few things are as inspiring as seeing people actually *have a mind to work*, then get that work done.

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