

Echo Church | No Games. No Gimmicks. Just God.

“If You Build It He Will Come” | Part 1: Build It Anyway

Build It Anyway

A 6-Day Devotional on Building From Conviction, Not for Recognition

Week of Monday, October 19, 2026 | Pastor Rich Saunders Jr.

On Sunday we stood in Ray Kinsella's cornfield and on Nehemiah's broken wall, and we asked one honest question of ourselves: are we building what God placed on our hearts, or only what people will celebrate? This week we take that question off the stage and into the ordinary places where real building actually happens, your home, your habits, your faith, your work. Give each morning a few unhurried minutes. Read the passage, sit inside the reflection, and answer the questions honestly, because honesty is where real building begins. The goal is not applause. The goal is to be faithful with what God entrusted to you, whether anybody is watching or not.

One line will walk with us all week: I am not building for attention. I am building with intention.

The Burden Comes Before the Blueprint

An assignment often begins with a problem you can no longer ignore.

Nehemiah 1:4 NKJV

"So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven."

Before Nehemiah ever drew up a plan for the wall, he developed a burden for the people. He heard that the survivors back in Judah were living in distress and disgrace, and he did not reach for a strategy. He sat down and wept. That order matters, because many of us have it reversed. We ask whether something is profitable before we ask whether it is purposeful. We ask whether it will get attention before we ask whether it meets a real need.

Nehemiah does the opposite. He sees something broken and simply cannot leave it alone. And that is often how an assignment from God actually begins. Not with a dramatic announcement or a voice in the field, but with a burden you cannot shake, a problem you keep noticing, a brokenness that bothers you long after everyone else has moved on. That ache may be the beginning of your calling.

Now, not every problem you see is yours to solve; discernment still matters. But do not dismiss the weight you have been carrying. Before God ever hands you a blueprint, He often gives you a burden. Pay attention to what breaks your heart, because that is frequently where He is pointing you to build.

Sometimes the beginning of an assignment is simply a problem you can no longer ignore.

REFLECT

What brokenness have you been noticing that others seem to walk right past?

Is that ache a burden God may be giving you, or just something you are meant to pray over? Ask Him.

PRAY

Father, give me a heart that breaks over the things that break Yours. Before You hand me a plan, let me carry the burden honestly. Show me what You are calling me to help rebuild. Amen.

DAY TWO | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

Build It Anyway

Not everyone who can see what you are building will understand why.

Nehemiah 4:3 NKJV

"Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall."

Tobiah stands off to the side and mocks the whole project. Whatever they build, he sneers, a fox could knock it down. It is the oldest discouragement there is, the voice that calls your work weak, useless, and destined to fail before you have even finished it. And if you are building anything that matters, you have heard a version of that voice.

Here is the truth we have to settle early in the week. Not everyone who can see what you are building will understand why you are building it. Ray Kinsella heard it when he turned good farmland into a baseball field. Nehemiah heard it while he was trying to restore a city. And you will hear it too, over the marriage you are rebuilding, the business you are starting, the discipline you are developing, the faith you are finally taking seriously. Because they do not understand it, you will be tempted to question your timing, your ability, and whether it is even worth it.

But what if the value of what you are building is not determined by the reaction of the people watching you build it? Tobiah got a vote in the noise. He did not get a vote in the wall. So let the critics say what they will, and keep laying stones. Build it anyway.

The value of what you build is not determined by the reaction of the people watching you build it.

REFLECT

Whose doubting voice has been loudest over the thing God asked you to build?

What would you do differently this week if their opinion no longer had a vote in your direction?

PRAY

Lord, I have let the critics get louder than the calling. Quiet their voice in my head. Remind me that they get an opinion but not authority, and give me the resolve to build it anyway. Amen.

Take It to God, Keep Your Hands on the Work

You can acknowledge the offense without surrendering your assignment to it.

Nehemiah 4:5 NKJV

"Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders."

When the mockery came, Nehemiah did something worth imitating. He did not pretend the hostility was harmless, and he did not stop building to go win an argument. He took his complaint straight to God and kept his hands on the work. His prayer was honest, even raw. He asked God to hold his critics accountable rather than swallowing the offense and stewing on it.

As people who follow Jesus, we also carry His words, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so this is not permission to pray down fire on everyone who frustrates us. But the principle is still powerful. Nehemiah refused to let the hostility consume the work. He named it, prayed about it, and the building kept moving. How many people have abandoned real progress because they got consumed with answering critics? How many marriages stalled because two people cared more about winning the argument than restoring the relationship?

You can acknowledge the offense without surrendering your assignment to it. Not everyone who questions your work is your enemy, and sometimes criticism carries information you actually need. But it cannot become the authority that sets your direction. Take the hurt to God, and then pick your tools back up.

Take your complaint to God, and keep your hands on the work.

REFLECT

What offense have you been carrying that you need to hand to God instead of rehearsing?

Where has answering your critics quietly pulled you away from the actual work?

PRAY

God, I bring You the mockery and the hurt instead of carrying it myself. Hold what needs holding, and keep my hands steady on the work You gave me. I will not trade my assignment for an argument. Amen.

DAY FOUR | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

Inspiration Has to Become Participation

We so easily confuse being inspired with being committed.

Nehemiah 4:6 NKJV

"So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work."

Hear how the verse opens. So we built the wall. Not, so we kept talking about the wall. Not, so we waited until everybody agreed. Nehemiah says, so we built. And this was not reckless; he had already examined the damage, secured authorization, and organized the people. It was conviction joined to deliberate action. That matters, because we so easily confuse being inspired with being committed. We get excited about a vision. We get emotional when somebody describes a possibility. But eventually inspiration has to become participation.

The Hebrew for mind here is *leb*, the word usually translated heart, and in Hebrew thought the heart was not just the seat of emotion. It was the place of intention, willingness, and decision. So the people had a mind to work means their hearts were fully engaged in the assignment. They were not merely excited about a restored wall; they were committed to the labor of rebuilding it.

You can be inspired to rebuild your marriage, but somebody has to start communicating differently. You can be inspired to grow spiritually, but somebody has to open the Bible and pray. Inspiration introduces you to the possibility. Commitment makes you responsible for the progress. Before you talk about what you want to build with your hands, examine what has actually captured your heart.

Inspiration introduces you to the possibility. Commitment makes you responsible for the progress.

REFLECT

Where have you been confusing being inspired about something with actually being committed to it?

What is one concrete act of participation you can do this week on the thing you say you want to build?

PRAY

Father, I have been moved by the vision but slow to do the work. Move me from inspired to committed. Give me a heart fully engaged in what You called me to, and steady hands to build it. Amen.

God Counts What the Crowd Cannot See

Culture celebrates what can be counted. God cares about what is being cultivated.

Nehemiah 4:6 NKJV

"...and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height..."

The wall was joined together, but only halfway to its intended height. It was not finished, and yet the verse records real progress. We live in a world that treats visibility as proof of value. How many watched it? How many liked it? How many showed up? Those numbers can be useful, but they cannot tell the whole story, because the most important building you will ever do rarely draws a crowd.

A father who spent years rebuilding the relationship with his children has no audience applauding it. A mother creating a healthier home gets no public announcement. A believer finally developing a consistent prayer life may have nobody at all see the change. Does that mean the work has no value? Of course not. Culture celebrates what can be counted. God also cares about what is being cultivated, and He has been watching every quiet, unapplauded stone you have set in place.

And do not dismiss the halfway. The wall was only half its height, yet the people had already accomplished something real. Some of us are so fixated on what is not finished that we no longer recognize what God has already done. The relationship is not fully restored, but communication has improved. You have not hit every goal, but you have started healthier habits. You are not finished, but you are building, and that matters.

An incomplete work does not mean insignificant progress.

REFLECT

What progress have you been dismissing because it is not finished or nobody noticed it?

If God counts what is cultivated, not just what is counted, what quiet work has He already honored in you?

PRAY

Lord, I have measured my life by who was watching instead of by Your faithfulness. Thank You for seeing the quiet work. Help me honor the progress You have already made in me, even halfway up. Amen.

Not Everyone Will Celebrate Your Restoration

Meaningful change can unsettle people who were comfortable with you broken.

Nehemiah 4:7 NKJV

"Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry."

Watch the order of events. The people worked. The wall progressed. The gaps started closing. And then the opposition intensified. Earlier it had been mostly ridicule, but as the restoration actually advanced, the anger escalated. Progress itself became the threat, because a restored Jerusalem changed the security and the power of everyone around it.

Be careful not to turn that into a formula that says every time someone opposes you, you must be in God's will. Sometimes criticism is legitimate and your plans need correcting. But Nehemiah shows us something real: meaningful restoration can genuinely unsettle people who were comfortable with things staying broken. When you set healthier boundaries, not everyone will appreciate them. When you change your habits and priorities, some relationships will feel the tension, not because those people are all malicious, but because real change disrupts familiar arrangements.

So as the week closes, settle this in your heart. Not everyone who was comfortable with your broken condition will celebrate your restoration. But you cannot allow someone else's comfort with your brokenness to become your reason for staying broken. Keep closing the gaps. Keep building. The restoration is worth more than their comfort.

Do not let someone else's comfort with your brokenness become your reason for staying broken.

REFLECT

Whose comfort with the old you has been quietly pressuring you to stop changing?

What gap in your life is closing right now that you need to keep sealing, no matter who it unsettles?

PRAY

God, give me the courage to keep rebuilding even when my progress makes others uncomfortable. I will not stay broken to keep someone else at ease. Help me close the gaps and finish what You started. Amen.

A CLOSING WORD

Six days ago we asked why we build. Since then you have carried the burden, faced the mockery, taken the offense to God, moved from inspired to committed, counted the quiet progress, and refused to stay broken for someone else's comfort. That is the heart of the whole series. We do not build to make God notice us. We build because God has already called us to the work, confident that He sees faithful obedience even when no one else does. So do not chase what only makes you visible, and do not abandon what matters just because nobody is applauding. Build it anyway.

I am not building for attention. I am building with intention.

Next in the series: Part 2 — The Cost of Construction

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