

Nehemiah Gives Credit to God (Nehemiah 7-8)

Nehemiah faced many problems in his work on the wall, but they did not impede his progress. Indeed, the wall was completed in only fifty-two days. Nehemiah exercised considerable skill to organize the builders, inspire them to work, and fend off attacks and distractions. Nevertheless he saw all of this as work done with God's help. God worked through him and his people. God used their gifts and their labor to accomplish God's own purposes.

Many leaders in business today also give credit to God for their accomplishments. When Joe Slawek, CEO of Flavors of North America, accepted Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award, he pointed heavenward and told the audience that he wanted to "give all the glory and honor and credit to God."

Slawek had founded Flavors of North America in 1987. A self-described "baby Christian" at the time, Slawek tried to put his faith into his new venture. "It was eye-opening to me, to see how God's word applies to our business life.

"People talk about being biblical as far as marriage, or parenting, but what was interesting to me is the idea of running a company biblically. The way I see it, the Bible is true all of the time or none of the time. It applies to every area of life, including business."

What does that look like? "It means you do the right thing in every situation, even if it's expensive. A pastor gets to teach values one hour a week, but in the workplace you're teaching values forty, fifty or even sixty hours a week."