

*“So we prayed to our God, and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.”
(Nehemiah 4:9)*

One of the reasons the church, our faith, is different, and at times in opposition to the way the world works, is that we acknowledge that God is in charge of all. In fact a general statement we can bear witness to about the Bible is God’s intervention and care for us. Relationship is good word to use in that regard, and as Christians, we know that we are God’s beloved adopted children in Christ. So prayer, praise, worship is at the top of the list of what we do. That is why when we gather, something unique and wonderful and maybe even “other worldly” should happen when two or more are gathered in Christ’s name.

Yet ours is not a solitary faith, it is an active faith. Luther describes it as faith active in love. We are to be about our God given call in our lives, and mission is a vital witness to the reality we bear witness to in worship. So we should be “about things” and moving in some sort of direction for our lives.

That means that there is an active “doing” in our faith both individually and corporately.

The scripture passage that I quoted from Nehemiah comes from the time the Jews returned from their time in Babylon, and were told that God called them to rebuild. However they faced opposition from others. To respond note their priorities, they prayed then they also put a guard on watch. Faith to be sure, but a practical side as well.

Someone once said, God doesn’t move a parked car. Clearly God expects us to move and use the gifts, and tools before us to go in the direction we can best discern we are being led. Can that lead to a mistake? Yes. But I believe God honors our willingness to act on our faith. By looking to God a mistake is only a detour if our hearts are sincerely in the business of doing God’s will,

God who so loves us He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believes in him may not perish but have everlasting life. With that on our side we can firmly not only be “believers “ but confident “doers” of the Word.

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