

# Face The Opposition

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Rebuilding A Life That Matters, Pt. 4

## 7 Ways People Oppose God's Work:

### 1) HUMILIATION

**Nehemiah 4:1**,\* When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, 2 and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing?" ...\*

### 2) DISCRIMINATION

**Nehemiah 2:10**, *When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.*

### 3) DEMORALIZATION

**Nehemiah 4:2**, ... *"Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?"*

### 4) PROVOCATION

**Nehemiah 4:3**, *Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!"*

### 5) IRRITATION

**Nehemiah 4:8**, *They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it... 12 Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us."*

**Nehemiah 6:2**, *Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message:*

*“Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono.” But they were scheming to harm me; 3 so I sent messengers to them with this reply: “I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?” 4 Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer.*

## 6) FABRICATION

**Nehemiah 6:5**, *Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter 6 in which was written: “It is reported among the nations—and Geshem says it is true—that you and the Jews are plotting to revolt, and therefore you are building the wall. Moreover, according to these reports you are about to become their king 7 and have even appointed prophets to make this proclamation about you in Jerusalem: ‘There is a king in Judah!’ Now this report will get back to the king; so come, let us meet together.”*

## 7) INTIMIDATION

**Nehemiah 6:10**, *One day I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home. He said, “Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple, and let us close the temple doors, because men are coming to kill you—by night they are coming to kill you.”*

### **How Should We Face The Opposition?**

- Recognize THE ENEMY’S M.O.

**Nehemiah 6:13**, *He had been hired to intimidate me so that I would commit a sin by doing this, and then they would give me a bad name to discredit me.*

- Be STRENGTHENED BY THE LORD’S PROMISES

**Nehemiah 4:10**, *Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.”*

**Nehemiah 4:4**, *Hear us, our God, for we are despised... But we*

*prayed to our God... After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, Who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."*

**Nehemiah 6:8**, *I sent him this reply: "Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just making it up out of your head." 9 They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed." But I prayed, "Now strengthen my hands."*

- Carry YOUR SWORD AND YOUR TROWEL

**Nehemiah 4:17**, *Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, 18 and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked... .*

- Don't LET YOUR GUARD DOWN

**Nehemiah 6:15**, *So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. 17 Also, in those days the nobles of Judah were sending many letters to Tobiah, and replies from Tobiah kept coming to them... 19 Moreover, they kept reporting to me his good deeds and then telling him what I said. And Tobiah sent letters to intimidate me.*

**Nehemiah 13:4**, *Before this, Eliashib the priest had been put in charge of the storerooms of the house of our God. He was closely associated with Tobiah, 5 and he had provided him with a large room... I learned about the evil thing Eliashib had done in providing Tobiah a room in the courts of the house of God. 8 I was greatly displeased and threw all Tobiah's household goods out of the room. 9 I gave orders to purify the rooms, and then I put back into them the equipment of the house of God, with the grain offerings and the incense.*

**Nehemiah 13:28**, *One of the sons of Joiada son of Eliashib the high priest was son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite. And I drove him away from me.*