

# Face The Opposition

---

October 4, 2020

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.*

- Keep Our FAITH And FOCUS On God

**Nehemiah 4:4**, *Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity.*

**Nehemiah 4:9a**, *But we prayed to our God*

**Nehemiah 6:9b**, *But I prayed, "Now strengthen my hands"*

- Faith Is CHOOSING To Live As If God's Word Is True Regardless Of CIRCUMSTANCES, EMOTIONS, And CULTURAL TRENDS

**Ephesians 6:16**, *In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

**James 1:19**, *My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.*

- Keep Our Faith And Focus On God And Continue To WORK

**Nehemiah 4:9**, *But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.*

**Nehemiah 4:14**, *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 our homes."*

- Don't LET YOUR GUARD DOWN

**Nehemiah 4:16**, *From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah 17 who were building the wall. 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.*