



# BEULAH FIRST BAPTIST

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**Focus: Nehemiah - Rebuilding with God**

**Week 4: Opposition & Perseverance – STAY ON THE WALL**

**Introduction:** Nehemiah 4–6 shows us that whenever God's people rise to build, opposition will rise to resist. The people faced ridicule, discouragement, injustice, and distraction, yet Nehemiah led them with prayer and perseverance. These chapters remind us that the work of God is worth enduring for and like Nehemiah, we must stay on the wall and remain focused on the **great** work He has given us.

**Key Scriptures:**

- † **Nehemiah 4:9** – “We prayed to our God and posted a guard.”
- † **Nehemiah 4:17–18** – Builders with tools in one hand and weapons in the other.
- † **Nehemiah 4:20** – “Our God will fight for us.”
- † **Nehemiah 6:3** – “I am doing a great work and I cannot come down.”

## **The Four Faces of Opposition**

### **1. Opposition of Ridicule (Nehemiah 4:1–3)**

- † Sanballat and Tobiah mocked the Jews: “What are these feeble Jews doing? ... Even if a fox climbs up, it will fall down.”
- † The goal was to make the builders feel foolish and weak.
- † **Application Today:** Criticism, mockery, and negative voices can shake our confidence. You may hear, “You’ll never change,” or “That won’t work.”
- † **Nehemiah’s Response:** He **prayed**: “Hear, O our God, for we are despised.” (4:4) and kept building.

### **A Mind to Work**

- † In the middle of ridicule, threats, and discouragement, the people kept building. Why? Because they had “a mind to work.”
- † This is not just about physical effort; it’s about determination, unity, and faith. Their strength wasn’t in their skill but in their willingness to keep going in the face of opposition.
- † **Application:** The greatest weapon against opposition is not talent, money, or influence; it is a heart and mind that refuses to quit.
- † **“Opposition is real, but so is the determination of God’s people when they have a mind to work.”**
- † **Ridicule** didn’t stop them (v. 1–3), **Prayer** strengthened them (v. 4–5), and **Unity** kept them building (v. 6).

### **2. Opposition of Discouragement (Nehemiah 4:10–14)**

- † Judah said, “The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish we cannot rebuild.” (4:10)
- † They began to believe the enemy’s spin: what once looked like **building blocks** now looked like **rubbish**.

- † **Application Today:** Discouragement often comes from fatigue, fear, or listening to the wrong voices. What was once a blessing can start to feel like a burden.
- † **Nehemiah's Response:** He encouraged them: "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses." (4:14)

### **Active Perseverance (Nehemiah 4:17–18)**

- † The builders carried tools in one hand and weapons in the other, ready to fight and build at the same time.
- † This picture shows us that **perseverance** is both **spiritual** and **practical**. They would not stop the work, even under threat.
- † **Application Today:** Serving God requires endurance, courage, and readiness. We too must be ready to work faithfully while also standing firm against opposition.

### **3. Opposition of Greed/Selfishness (Nehemiah 5:1–13)**

- † A famine and high taxes caused hardship. Wealthier Jews exploited the poor with unfair loans and high interest, even forcing some into slavery.
- † Nehemiah rebuked the leaders: "You are exacting usury from your brothers!" (5:7) and called them back to integrity.
- † **Application Today:** Sometimes opposition isn't from the **outside** : it's from **within**. Greed, selfishness, and lack of integrity can destroy God's work faster than any enemy.
- † **Nehemiah's Response:** He demanded justice, required restoration, and modeled sacrificial leadership himself.

### **4. Opposition of Distraction (Nehemiah 6:1–4)**

- † Nehemiah's enemies invited him to a meeting in the plain of Ono, planning to harm him.
- † His reply: "I am doing a great work, and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?" (6:3)
- † **Application Today:** Distraction is one of the enemy's favorite tools. It might be busyness, unhealthy relationships, unnecessary arguments, or chasing approval.
- † **Nehemiah's Response:** He said "No" and stayed focused on the wall

### **The Result**

- † "So the wall was finished... in **52 days**. And when all our enemies heard of it... they perceived that this work was done by our God." (Nehemiah 6:15–16)
- † Opposition could not stop God's people because they **prayed, persevered, acted** with integrity, and stayed **focused** on the mission. **STAY ON THE WALL:**

### **Personal Reflection Questions**

1. How do you usually respond when opposition rises: with prayer, discouragement, defensiveness, or perseverance?
2. What "great work" has God placed in your hands that you need to stay focused on?
3. What are some "distractions" today that tempt the church to come down?
4. How can we encourage one another when discouragement sets in?