

## I'M GIVING UP Making a Comeback – Part 6

*“So, we rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem until it had reached half its original height, because the people worked at it with all their heart. But then the other tribes in our area heard about our progress and how Jerusalem’s walls were being repaired and how all the gaps were being closed. They became very angry and they all plotted together to attack Jerusalem and create some confusion to stop the progress. So, we prayed to God for protection and posted twenty-four-hour guards. But about that time, the people of Jerusalem began to complain. They said ‘We’re tired and worn out. We can’t keep up this pace! Besides that, there is so much rubble and trash to be removed. We now realize that we cannot finish this wall. Meanwhile our enemies are threatening to kill us in order to stop this work! Then, those of us who lived closest to our enemies kept reporting over and over – ten times – that our enemies kept saying ‘It doesn’t matter where you go, we’ll attack you!’” Nehemiah 4:6-12*

### SETBACKS THAT CAN CAUSE DISCOURAGEMENT

1. When something takes **LONGER** than expected. This causes **FATIGUE**.

*“They said ‘We’re tired and worn out. We can’t keep up this pace!’” Nehemiah 4:10a*

*“Never forget how the Amalekites . . . attacked you when you were exhausted and weary, and they struck down those who began to lag behind . . .” Deuteronomy 25:18*

2. When something is more **COMPLICATED** than expected. This causes **FRUSTRATION**.

*“Besides that, there is so much rubble and trash to be removed!” Nehemiah 4:10b*

#### Observations about rubble:

**OBSERVATION #1:** It is a **NORMAL** part of life.

**OBSERVATION #2:** You have to **CLEAN** it out of your life periodically.

**OBSERVATION #3:** If you don’t deal with it, eventually it will **TAKE OVER**.

**OBSERVATION #4:** You don’t always **RECOGNIZE** what is rubble in your life, but other people do.

*“Come, Lord, and show me your mercy, for I feel helpless, overwhelmed, and in deep distress.” Psalm 25:16*

3. When I start to **DOUBT** my own **ABILITY**. This causes a sense of **FAILURE**.

*“The people said, ‘We now realize that we cannot finish this wall.’” Nehemiah 4:10c*

4. When the **OPPOSITION** grows stronger. This causes **FEAR**.

*“Meanwhile our enemies are threatening to kill us in order to stop this work. Then, those of us who lived closest to our enemies kept reporting over and over – ten times – that our enemies kept saying ‘It doesn’t matter where you go, we’ll attack you!’” Nehemiah 4:11-12*

*“Be confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to the day of completion in Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6*

### WHAT SHOULD WE DO WHEN I FEEL LIKE GIVING UP?

1. Develop a new **STRATEGY** for whatever is not working.

*“So, I stationed armed guards at the most vulnerable places of the wall and assigned people by families with their swords, lances, and bows.” Nehemiah 4:13*

*“Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting with other believers, but we must not do that. Instead, we should keep on encouraging each other . . .” Hebrews 4:25*

2. **RECOMMIT** yourself to include God in your daily life.

*“Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the leaders and the people and said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious.’” Nehemiah 4:14a*

*(Jonah) “When I had lost all hope, I turned my thoughts once again to the Lord.” Jonah 2:7*

*(David) “I’m completely discouraged. Revive me by your Word!” Psalm 119:25*

3. Don't **GIVE IN** to the discouragement.

*(Then I told them) “. . . Fight for your brothers, and your sons and your daughters, and wives and homes!”  
Nehemiah 4:14b*

*"Resist the devil, resist the devil and he will flee from you." James 4:7*