

Rebuilding Hope

Part 2: Handling Opposition

Nehemiah 4:1-9 ESV

Pastor Brian Uyeda, August 15 & 16, 2026

Question: How do we stay focused on God’s call when opposition arises?

4 Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. ² And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?” ³ Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!” ⁴ Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. ⁵ Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders. ⁶ So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. - Nehemiah 4:1-6

1. We respond by _____ to God, instead of reacting to critics. [Nehemiah 4:4-5]

Under Jesus’ teaching we pray for our enemies and leave justice to God.

⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, - Matthew 5:44

Live it out!

Q: When someone criticizes or mocks something important to me, what is my usual first reaction? What would it look like for me to take criticism to God in prayer before I respond to the person? How can I grow in making prayer my first response so that opposition does not pull me off course?

⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸ And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. ⁹ And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night. - Nehemiah 4:7-9

2. We pray and stay ready to guard and _____ the work God has given us. [Nehemiah 4:9]

3 things we guard and protect:

2.1. We guard and protect the ministry and calling God has given us.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. – 1 Corinthians 15:58

2.2. We guard and protect the truth of the gospel.

⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. – Galatians 1:8

2.3. We guard and protect the people God has placed in our lives.

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. – Galatians 6:1 NLT

Live it out!

Q: What is one responsibility or role in my life that feels worth protecting? Where might God be inviting me to stay steady and guard what He has given me, even when it feels hard? How can I protect the people or work God has entrusted to me?