

“Satan’s Strategies”

The work continues, and the enemy keeps attacking. This is to be expected. Thankfully, God has given us every victory in Jesus Christ.

“So that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.” - 2 Corinthians 2:11

Here are four lethal attacks, and four ways to fight them off.

DECEPTION / SLANDER / FEAR / BETRAYAL

1. **DECEPTION (NEHEMIAH 6:1-4)**

A. The enemy uses deception and lies to cause compromise (Verses 1-2)

- i. *2 Corinthians 11:3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*
- ii. *Genesis 3:3-4³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ”⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.*
- iii. *John 8:44⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.*

B. Fight deception with discernment and determination (Verses 2-4)

C. Discernment – This is a lie. This is not according to what God has said.

- i. *1 Thessalonians 5:21²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good.*
- ii. *1 John 4:1¹ Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God...*

D. Determination – Focus on what is important. Don’t get sidetracked from your mission.

- i. *1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*
- ii. *1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

2. SLANDER (NEHEMIAH 6:5-9)

A. Not only does the enemy lie to you, he also lies about you. (Verses 5-7)

- i. Slander: "to damage someone's reputation by making a false spoken statement about them"*
- ii. Mark 15:2-3 And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." 3 And the chief priests accused him of many things.*
- iii. Revelation 12:10¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.*

B. When you gossip slander and accuse others you are working for Satan.

- i. Proverbs 16:28 A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.*
- ii. A great preacher, Dr. A. B. Simpson, speaking on the theme of slander, and especially the slander of Christians, once said, "I would rather play with the forked lightning, or take in my hands living wires with their fiery currents, than speak a reckless word against any servant of Christ, or idly repeat the slanderous darts which thousands of Christians are hurling on others to the hurt of their own souls and bodies."*

C. Fight slander with the truth and prayer. (Verses 8-9)

- i. 1 Peter 3:16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.*

3. FEAR (NEHEMIAH 6:10-14)

A. The enemy wants you to run and hide. Sometimes he uses your "friend's" advice. (Verses 10-11)

- i. Genesis 3:9-10 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."*
- ii. Genesis 3:11-13¹¹ And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"¹² Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."¹³ And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

B. Fight fear with faith (Verses 12-14)

C. Faith rejects the message of fear. Faith believes that God will finish the fight.

- i. Exodus 14:12–13 Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” 13 And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.*
- ii. 2 Timothy 1:7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

4. BETRAYAL (NEHEMIAH 6:15-19)

A. The nobles of Judah were influenced by the enemy, and disloyal to Nehemiah. (Verses 17-19)

- i. Jeremiah 9:4 Let everyone beware of his neighbor, and put no trust in any brother, for every brother is a deceiver, and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer.*
- ii. Luke 22:3 Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.*

B. Fight Betrayal with progress (Verses 15-16)

C. You will be hurt and abandoned by people, but God will never leave you and he will help you finish the job he has for you!

- i. 2 Timothy 4:16–17 At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. 17 But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.*