

“Overcoming Opposition: Six Winning Strategies Against Satan’s Attacks” Nehemiah 4

Nehemiah and the people of God are making serious progress. They are starting to see results and encouraged about the possibility of a bright future. But the enemy will not sit by idly. He will attack. When the hand of the Lord is upon us the hand of the enemy is against us.

We will not give up! Here are six strategies against Satan’s attacks.

1. **THE ENEMY MOCKS US – IT’S AN ASSAULT TO OUR PRIDE AND POWER (NEHEMIAH 4:1-3)**
 - A. “You are weak and insignificant” “You don’t matter and can’t do anything right”
2. **THE ENEMY CONFUSES US – IT’S AN ASSAULT TO OUR SENSE OF STABILITY (NEHEMIAH 4:7-8)**
 - A. “You can’t feel safe.” “You will live in fear” “Your life will be disrupted”
3. **THE ENEMY DISCOURAGES US – IT’S AN ASSAULT TO OUR FAITH IN GOD (NEHEMIAH 4:10-12)**
 - A. “We are failing” “We are not able” “we are beaten already”
4. **WINNING STRATEGY #1: FIND YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST. (NEHEMIAH 4:4-5)**
 - A. Being “In Christ” means when they attack us, they are attacking Jesus (Verses 4-5)
 - i. *Acts 9:4* Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”
 - B. Being “In Christ” means that we don’t have to seek vengeance or judgment, because Jesus is the one who is being mocked/abused
 - i. *Romans 12:19* Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.
 - ii. *Luke 23:35–37* And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God.” 36 The soldiers also mocked

Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, 37 and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."

C. "In Christ" means we don't have to feel ashamed or weak anymore because Jesus is glorious and strong. (Verses 1-3, 10-12)

- i. Colossians 2:9-10 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.*

5. WINNING STRATEGY #2: KEEP WORKING (NEHEMIAH 4:6, 15-18, 21-22)

A. This is the goal of the enemy to stop our progress! Keep going.

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

6. WINNING STRATEGY #3: WATCH AND PRAY (NEHEMIAH 4:9)

A. If the enemy stops your prayer life, then he stops your progress

- i. Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

7. WINNING STRATEGY #4: GET IN THE FIGHT! (NEHEMIAH 4:13-14)

A. Some Christians are ignorant of this. We are at war!

- i. 2 Timothy 2:3-4 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.*
- ii. 2 Corinthians 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.*
- iii. "Fight the good fight of faith, and God will give you spiritual mercies."
- George Whitefield*

B. God is the one who fights for us, and we are fighting for our families (vs.14,20)

- i. Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

8. WINNING STRATEGY #5: STAY UNIFIED (NEHEMIAH 4:19-20)

- i. Matthew 12:25 ... "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand."*
- ii. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*

9. WINNING STRATEGY #6: DON'T REMOVE YOUR ARMOUR

- i. Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*

- ii. Ephesians 6:16 ...above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.