

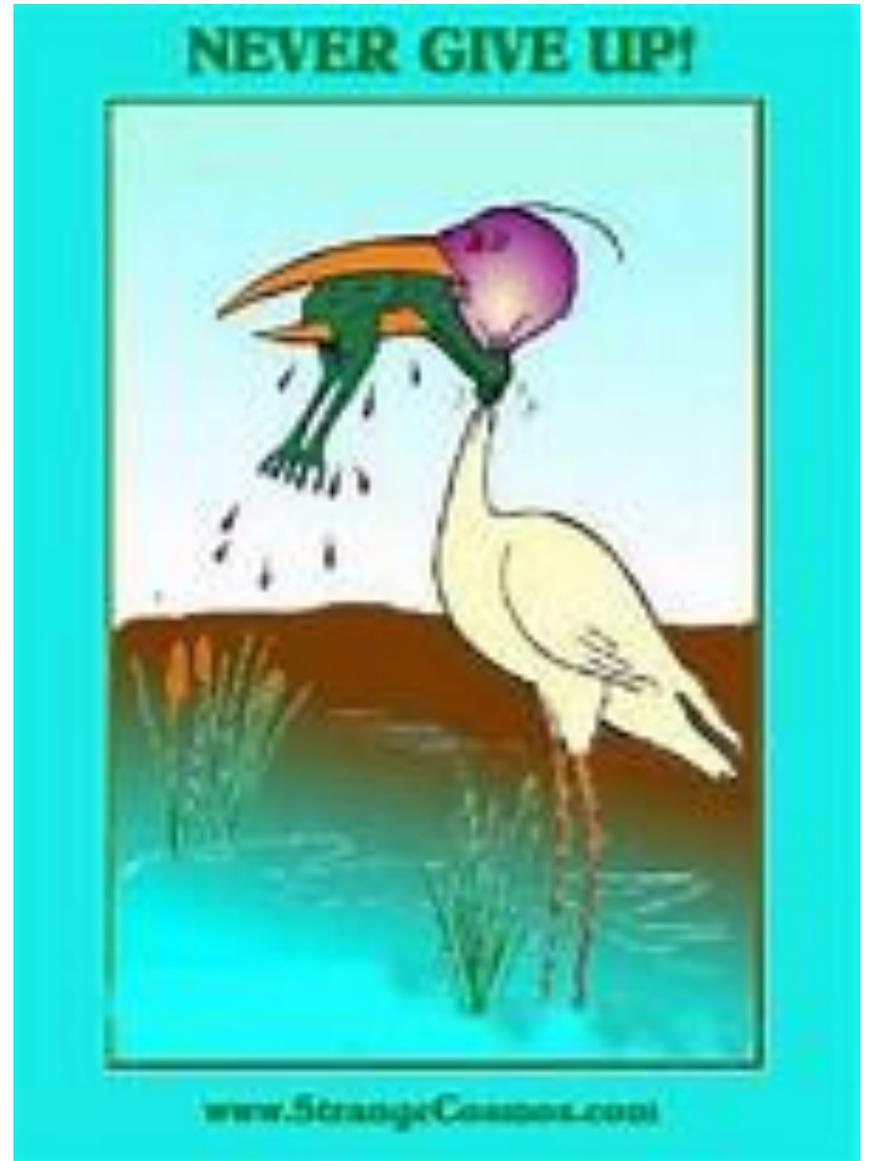
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**REBUILDING
DURING
COVID**



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Have I ever given up?



How do I respond to opposition even when I am convinced that I am doing is what God wants?



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Nehemiah has

- Pursued 1:1-3
- Prayed 1:4-11
- Planned 2:1-3; 9-16
- Petitioned 2:4-8
- Purposed 2:17-20

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- Chapter 3: Workers comprised of merchants, perfumers and goldsmiths, politicians and priests

Nehemiah 4:1-3

Verbal attacks

Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. 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?”



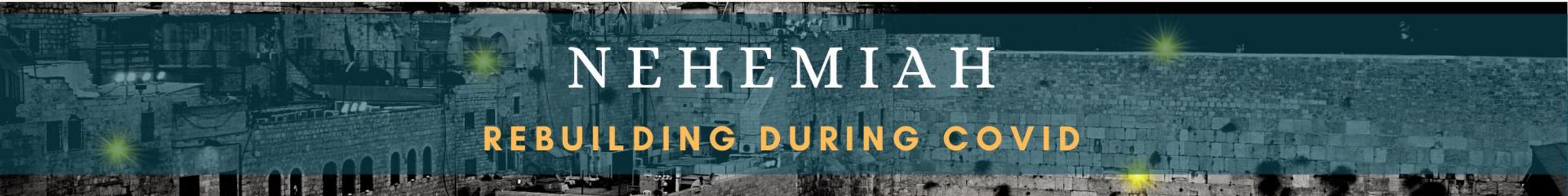
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Nehemiah 4:1-3

Verbal attacks

Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?” 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!”



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Opposition is not an “if” but “when”

- Critics very seldom will stand alone
- Opposition is more interested in control rather than serve

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- Critics very seldom will stand alone
- Opposition is more interested in control rather than serve
- Choose to rebuild my confidence in listening to God instead of critics.

Nehemiah 4:4-5 Nehemiah's response

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. 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.



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How do I respond to opposition?

- Nehemiah did not attack those criticizing the work
- Nehemiah focused on God and expressed his heart
- In all that has taken place in my life I will express to Jesus the deepest desires and pain in my heart in order for Him to rebuild me.

Nehemiah 4:6

Spiritual perseverance

So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.



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In the face of opposition God is faithful

- It took everyone to build the wall – team effort
- First stage was completed to close off any easy access to the city.
- Good start but not yet finished- do not quit halfway
- As I rebuild aspects of my life I will keep my sights on the long-term God-given goals and not just the short term.

Nehemiah 4:7-8 Physical opposition

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. And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it.



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Success brings increased opposition

- Opposition comes from all directions
- The more success you have can lead to greater opposition.
- Rebuilding aspects of my life will require me to battle against greater opposition but God is always there.

Nehemiah 4:9 Pray and planning

And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.



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Balance of Earth and Heaven

“We prayed to our God” and “set a guard..”

- Balance of prayer and planning
- Many good ideas never get off the ground due to the lack of action
- Any type of rebuilding in my life takes both faith and action.

Nehemiah 4:10-14 Opposition from within

In Judah it was said, “The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall.” And our enemies said, “They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work.” At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, “You must return to us”



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Nehemiah 4:10-14 Opposition from within

So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”



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Opposition within the family

- Those who call themselves part of God's family can become your opposition.
- Close intimate relationships provide an incentive to face opposition of all kinds.
- Am I seeking to build close relationships with people that I can trust and grow together?

Nehemiah 4:15-20 Adjusting the plan

When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other.

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Nehemiah 4:15-20 Adjusting the plan

And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me. And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.”



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Strategic planning against attacks

- God expects me to use my abilities, mind, logic and reasoning under His direction.
- Being mindful of what is taking place around me is important but it does not control me.
- Rebuilding aspects of my life will require me to make decisions based upon discernment.

Nehemiah 4:21-23 Setting the example

So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out. I also said to the people at that time, “Let every man and his servant pass the night within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day.” So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; each kept his weapon at his right hand.

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DON'T QUIT OR BECOME APATHETIC

2 Corinthians 4:16-17

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison....



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