

## SOME OF THE METHODS OF OPPOSITION.

### Nehemiah 4:1-3-AMP

BUT WHEN Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, *he was angry and in a great rage, and he ridiculed the Jews.*

**Neh 4:2** And he said before his brethren and the army of Samaria, What are these *feeble Jews* doing? Will they restore things [at will and by themselves]? Will they [try to bribe their God] with sacrifices? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, seeing they are burned?

**Neh 4:3** Now Tobiah the Ammonite was near him, and he said, What they build—if a fox climbs upon it, he will break down their stone wall.

1. The first approach the opposition usually uses is ridicule.

**Psalms 119:51-GW** Arrogant people have *mocked me with cruelty*, yet I *have not turned away from your teachings*.

**Rage:** usually lasts until a threat is removed, or until the raged person is disarmed.

**Proverbs 15:1-GW**

*A gentle answer turns away rage*, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Ridicule is contagious. v. 3.

**Ephesians 4:31-32-CJB**

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, violent assertiveness and slander, along with all spitefulness. 32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted; and forgive each other, just as in the Messiah God has also forgiven you.

2. The Second approach the opposition usually uses is Resistance.

v. 7 But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabians, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were going up and that the breaches were being closed, they were very angry.

v. 8 And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem, *to injure and cause confusion and failure in it.*

NIV—*stir up trouble against it.*

CJB—*throw us into confusion...*

### Acts 9:5-AMP

And Saul said, Who are You, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting. It is dangerous and it will turn out badly for you to keep kicking against the goad *[to offer vain and perilous resistance]*.

3. The third approach the opposition usually uses is Rumor.

v. 11-12. *And our enemies said*, they will not know or see till we come into their midst and kill them and stop the work.

And when the Jews who lived near them came, they said to us ten times, you must return *[to guard our little villages]*; from all places where they dwell they will be upon us.

### Mark 1:28-AMP

And immediately *rumors concerning Him (Jesus)* spread *[everywhere]* throughout all the region surrounding Galilee.

Two characteristics of rumors:

1) They are always spread by those closest to the enemy.

v. 12 ...*And when the Jews who lived near them came...*

### Psalms 31:20—Message Bible

You hide them safely away from the opposition. As you slam the door on those oily, mocking faces, *you silence the poisonous gossip*.

2) They are exaggerated the more they are repeated.

## SOME OF THE EFFECTS OF OPPOSITION.

v. 10-11 And [the leaders of] Judah said, *The strength of the burden bearers is weakening, and there is much rubbish*; we are not able to work on the wall.

And our enemies said, they will not know or see till we come into their midst and kill them and stop the work.

That's the effect of opposition: discouragement.

Discouragement comes at the half-way point.

Four causes of discouragement:

1. Fatigue -- *"the strength of the laborers is giving out"*

Galatians 6:9-AMP

And let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint.

2. Frustration -- *"there was so much rubble"*

John 16:33- Amp

I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]

3. Failure -- *"we cannot rebuild the wall"*

Mark 10:27-AMP

Jesus glanced around at them and said, With men [it is] impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.

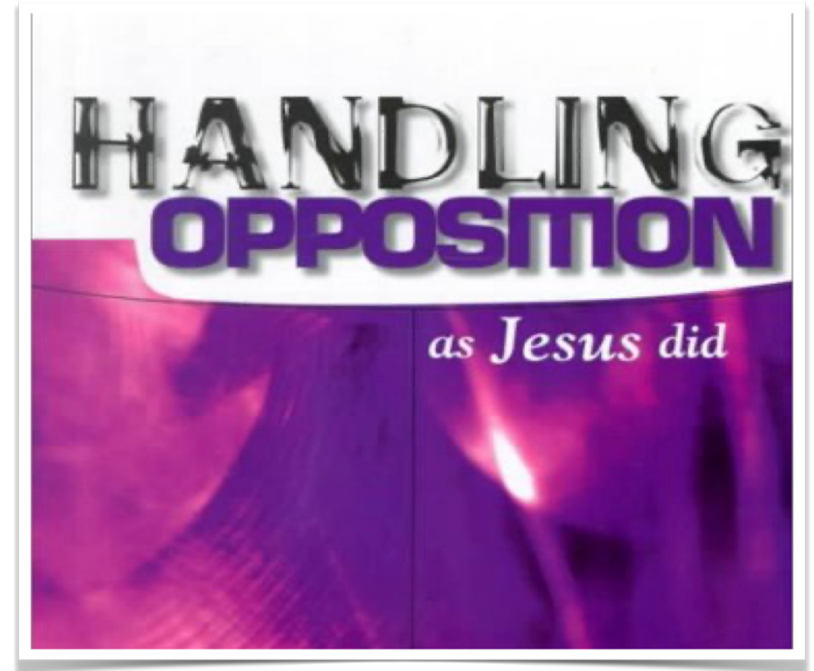
4. Fear -- *"the enemies will attack us"*

Hebrews 13:6 –AMP

So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my Helper; I will not be seized with alarm [I will not fear or dread or be terrified]. What can man do to me?

The opposition always has two goals.

One of them is *to hinder God's word* and one is *to stop God's work*.



## HANDLING OPPOSITION-PT-1

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Pastor Audie D. Clairmont