

### III. WHAT IS THE RIGHT RESPONSE TO OPPOSITION?

#### 1. WE NEED TO RELY ON GOD

v. 4-5 Nehemiah's prayer. "Here O God for we're despised. Turn their insults back over their heads and give them over as plunder in the land of captivity. Do not cover their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight? They have thrown insults in the face of the builders."

Despised.....CJB...we are being treated with contempt.

Contempt: *consider someone or something to be unworthy of respect or attention.*

Proverbs 26:4 "Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself."

When you're ridiculed don't take it out on people, talk it out with God.

v. 8 it says they plotted together to fight against Jerusalem.

#### 2. WE CAN'T UNDER ESTIMATE THE OPPOSITION.

v. 9 "But we prayed to our God and we posted a guard day and night to meet this threat."

v. 9 "We prayed."

"Watch and pray".

Colossians 4:2 –CJB

Keep persisting in prayer, staying alert in it and being thankful.

1Peter 5:8-CEV

Be on your guard and stay awake. Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack.

#### 3. WE NEED TO STRENGTHEN OUR WEAK POINTS

v. 13 "Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families with their swords, spears and bows."

v. 16 "From that day on, half of my men did the work while the other half were equipped with spears and bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did the work with one hand and held a weapon in the other. Each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me. I said to the nobles and officials, 'The work is extensive and spread out and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. Whenever you hear the sound of the trumpet join us there and our God will fight for us.'"

Principle: keep your lines of communication open during times of attack, times of opposition.

Ephesians 6:18-CJB

18 Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the Spirit. Stay alert and keep praying for God's people.

Everybody did two things: They worked and they carried a weapon.

Principle: Every time you start building for God, you're asking for a battle.

Ephesians 6:12-13-CJB

We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world.

13 So put on all the armor that God gives. Then when that evil day comes, you will be able to defend yourself. And when the battle is over, you will still be standing firm.

We must learn to build and battle at the same time.

v. 13 "I stationed some of the people at the lowest points of the wall posting them by families."

Principle: Never fight a fight alone.

## Romans 12:2-GW

Don't become like the people of this world. Instead, change the way you think. Then you will always be able to determine what God really wants what is good, pleasing, and perfect.

### 4. WE NEED TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE, (EACH OTHER.)

v. 14 "After I looked things over, I stood up and I said to the nobles and the officials the rest of the people, 'Don't be afraid! Remember the Lord is great and awesome. Fight for your brothers and your daughters and your homes."

If I fear God then I'm not going to fear other people.

V.19 "I said to the nobles and officials, 'The work is extensive and spread out and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. Whenever you hear the sound of the trumpet join us there and our God will fight for us.'"

### 5. WE HAVE TO REFUSE TO QUIT

v. 15 "When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to his own work."

v. 21 "So we continued to work...with half of the men holding spears from the first light of dawn till the stars came out at night. At that time I also said to the people, 'Have every man and his helper stay in Jerusalem at night so they can serve us as guards by night and workmen by day.' Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes. Each had his weapon even when he went for water."

Strong Christians model persistence.



## HANDLING OPPOSITION-PT-2

**Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Pastor Audie D. Clairmont**