

Rejoice

FIND STRENGTH IN THE LORD FOR YOUR JOURNEY
SERMON OUTLINE

Introduction

The book of Nehemiah is filled with insights on how to rebuild, restore, overcome, and rejoice. But we know that we face opposition when we say yes to God's assignments.

Let's look at how Nehemiah reclaimed God's promises and rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. Truly, Nehemiah found strength in God to rebuild the wall while facing opposition throughout the process.

We step into chapter 6 to find that Nehemiah and the Israelites had finished repairing the breaches in the walls, but the gates were not yet installed. Nehemiah had his assignment from God. Sanballat and Tobiah, enemies of the Jews, scrambled to hinder the progress. Others definitely will oppose our efforts to obey God and follow Him. But as Christ followers, we know that our true enemy today is the same true enemy Nehemiah faced in his day—Satan, the enemy of our souls.

Nehemiah prayed all throughout his time leading the effort to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. When we are assailed by our enemy, we can follow Nehemiah's example and cry out to God for His strength. Let's glean from Nehemiah's story of triumph over the enemy as he led the rebuilding efforts in Jerusalem.

(Read Neh 6:1-14)

Nehemiah turned to God all throughout the effort to rebuild the damaged walls around Jerusalem. Be assured, when you say yes to God's assignment of any size, your enemy will come to try to prevent your obedience and success.

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When he does, like Nehemiah we need to ask God for help. In our efforts to rebuild, let's consider three things to ask God for:

1. STRENGTH TO *Work* (Read Neh. 6:1-4)

We need God's strength to work diligently while resisting the enemy's schemes and distractions. God provides strength and discernment to resist the enemy's **persistent invitation** to sin and be **distracted** from God's work.

- Share a personal story or another example of how God helped you or someone else continue to work diligently, despite temptation and distraction. *(Completing a degree program, building a house, faithful time in your Bible and prayer, etc.)*

2. STRENGTH TO *Stand* (Read Neh. 6:5-7)

We need God's strength to stand against **false accusation**.

The enemy will try to invite us to sin; distract us from obeying God; and he will try to impact and discourage us through **accusation**. How did Nehemiah handle this?

He prayed and continued with God's work.
(Read Neh. 6:8-9)

“Be assured, when you say yes to God's assignment of any size, your enemy will come to try to prevent your obedience and success. When he does, we need to be like Nehemiah.”

- (Share an illustration of how you or someone else stood firm in what God assigned in the face of false accusation. How did God help you?)

3. STRENGTH TO *Overcome*

We need God's strength to overcome **intimidation**. The enemy uses fear as one of his favorite weapons against God's faithful followers. We can't always recognize his activity behind the threatening fear, but if we quiet our hearts and pray, the Holy Spirit will give us discernment and help to resist the enemy, press in closer to God, and overcome every attempt of the enemy to undo us with fear.

Sometimes the enemy will use people we know or even respect to try to intimidate us and throw us off our assignment.

- (Share an area that the enemy regularly tries to discourage you through fear. Is it fear of what others will think? Fear of danger? Fear of failure? How have you learned to strengthen yourself in the Lord and overcome?)

Conclusion

The enemy may try many schemes to discourage you in completing what God has asked you to do. *Don't fall for his age-old schemes of:*

- Temptation
- Distraction
- False accusation
- Intimidation
- Fear

(Read Neh. 6:15) Nehemiah prayed faithfully, worked faithfully, encouraged others, resisted the enemy's schemes, and refused to fall for the many tactics of the enemy.

Find your strength in the Lord.

- Always pray—constantly.
- Worship Jesus aloud.
- Quote Scripture aloud.
- Press in closer to the Lord and

The Lord will provide all you need to complete the assignments He gives.

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