

RESTORED: REFORTIFYING YOUR LIFE IN A HOSTILE WORLD

Message 6: How Do You Keep the Flow of the Spirit Alive?

Text: Nehemiah 6:1-19, February 18, 2024

1. WHEN THE ENEMY TRIES TO DISTRACT ...

Nehemiah 6:1-2 *When Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had **rebuilt the wall** and that no gap was left in it—though at that time I had not installed the doors in the city gates—² Sanballat and Geshem sent me a message: “Come, let’s meet together in the villages of the Ono Valley.” They were planning to harm me.*

+STAY DEDICATED to the LORD and His Work.

Nehemiah 6:3-4 ³ So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing important work and cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?” ⁴ Four times they sent me the same proposal, and I gave them the same reply.

James 4:4 “friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God”

2. WHEN THE ENEMY TRIED TO DISCREDIT ...

Nehemiah 6:5-7 ⁵ Sanballat sent me this same message a fifth time by his aide, who had an open letter in his hand. ⁶ In it was written: It is reported among the nations—and Geshem agrees—that you and the Jews plan to rebel. This is the reason you are building the wall. According to these reports, you are to become their king ⁷ and have even set up the prophets in Jerusalem to proclaim on your behalf, “There is a king in Judah.” These **rumors** will be heard by the king. So come, let’s confer together.

+REFUTE, REBUKE, AND REFER LIES/LIARS

Nehemiah 6:8-9 ⁸ Then I replied to him, “There is nothing to these rumors you are spreading; you are inventing them in your own mind.” ⁹ For they were **all trying to intimidate us**, saying, “They will drop their hands from the work, and it will never be finished.” But **now, my God, strengthen my hands**. See Proverbs 6:16-19
Intimidate = to compel or deter by a threat.

3. WHEN THE ENEMY TRIES TO DIVIDE ...

Nehemiah 6:10 ¹⁰ I went to the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was restricted to his house. He said: Let’s meet at the house of God, inside the temple. Let’s shut the temple doors because they’re coming to kill you. They’re coming to kill you tonight!

+SEEK BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT

Nehemiah 6:11-14 ¹¹ But I said, “Should a man like me run away? How can someone like me enter the temple and live? I will not go.” ¹² I realized that God had not sent him, because of the prophecy he spoke against me. Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. ¹³ He was hired, so that I would be **intimidated**, do as he suggested, **sin**, and get a **bad reputation**, in order that they could **discredit** me. Discernment: the ability to distinguish truth from lie. ¹⁴ **My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat** for what they have done, and also the prophetess Noadiah and the other prophets who wanted to **intimidate me**. 2 Chronicles 26, Deut. 18:20

Nehemiah 6:17-19 ¹⁷ During those days, the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah’s letters came to them. ¹⁸ For many in Judah were **bound by oath** to him, since he was a son-in-law of Shecaniah ... ¹⁹ These nobles kept mentioning Tobiah’s good deeds to me, ... And Tobiah sent letters to **intimidate me**.

RESULTS: GOD GETS THE GLORY. THE ENEMY IS DEFEATED!

Nehemiah 6:15-16 ¹⁵ The wall was completed in fifty-two days, on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul. (Oct. 2, 445 B.C.) ¹⁶ When all our enemies heard this, all the surrounding nations were **intimidated** and **lost their confidence**, for they realized that this task had been **accomplished by our God**.

NEXT STEPS:

RENOUNCE FEAR. EMBRACE FAITH. KEEP WORKING!