

Nehemiah: Servant to The King

“When Opposition Gets Us Down: Restarting with Courage” (Nehemiah 4:15-23)

Pastor Stephen Schultze

Sunday, March 14, 2010

Introduction

We can **expect** opposition. We can **expect** discouragement. **But we must _____**
_____ about opposition and
discouragement.

Scripture: Matthew 5:10-12; John 15:18-20

How did Nehemiah and the Jews manage to overcome fear and discouragement to courageously restart their work?



I. They Were Confident in the _____. (4:14, 15, 20)

God’s character gave the Israelites confidence:

- **God is _____**; He knows our needs. (v. 4; Psalms 127:1; 1 Peter 5:7)
- **God is _____**; He will defend His name & His people. (v.4; Nahum 1:2)
- **God is _____**; He will overcome any opposition. (v. 14; Psalms 124:8)
- **God is _____**; He is unbelievably beyond all opposition. (v. 14)
- **God is _____**. He is completely in control. (v. 15)
- **God is _____**; He is involved in our situation. (v. 20; Psalms 57:10)

Correct theology leads to correct _____.

Correct thinking leads to correct _____.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:7

II. They Were Unified In Their _____. (4:15)

The wall was the mission of “all”. The work was “each” individual’s part.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:15-16

III. They Protected Their _____.(4:16-20)

- Nehemiah and the Israelites exhibited the right balance of _____ & _____.
- Since we ARE _____ by the enemy, we must _____ with God's people.

Scripture: John 15:17-20

- We must not be so busy in _____ that do not care for _____.

The _____ is not over until the _____ is ended!

IV. They Made the Essential _____.(4:21-23)

- To carry out God's work with God's people demands _____.
- Godly sacrifice is _____ by God and _____ towards others.

Scripture: Hosea 6:6

**"Persons of true godly character are neither optimists nor pessimists,
but realists who have confidence in God."**

(Warren Wiersbe)

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Introduction

We can **expect** opposition. We can **expect** discouragement. **But we must think Biblically about opposition and discouragement.**

Scripture: Matthew 5:10-12; John 15:18-20

How did Nehemiah and the Jews manage to overcome fear and discouragement to courageously restart their work?



V. They Were Confident in the **Outcome**. (4:14, 15, 20)

God's character gave the Israelites confidence:

- God is **attentive**; He knows our needs. (v. 4; Psalms 127:1; 1 Peter 5:7)
- God is **righteous**; He will defend His name & His people. (v.4; Nahum 1:2)
- God is **powerful**; He will overcome any opposition. (v. 14; Psalms 124:8)
- God is **holy**; He is unbelievably beyond all opposition. (v. 14)
- God is **sovereign**. He is completely in control. (v. 15)
- God is **unfailing**; He is involved in our situation. (v. 20; Psalms 57:10)

Correct theology leads to correct **thinking**.
Correct thinking leads to correct **living**.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:7

VI. They Were Unified In Their **Mission**. (4:15)

The wall was the mission of “all”. The work was “each” individual's part.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:15-16

VII. They Protected Their Vulnerabilities.(4:16-20)

- Nehemiah and the Israelites exhibited the right balance of **building and battle.**
- Since we ARE **surrounded** by the enemy, we must **stand** with God's people.

Scripture: John 15:17-20

- We must not be so busy in **GOD'S WORK** that do not care for **GOD'S PEOPLE.**

The **warfare** is not over until the **work** is ended!

VIII. They Made the Essential Sacrifices.(4:21-23)

- To carry out God's work with God's people demands **selfless sacrifice.**
- Godly sacrifice is **motivated** by God and **oriented** towards others.

Scripture: Hosea 6:6

**"Persons of true godly character are neither optimists nor pessimists,
but realists who have confidence in God."**

(Warren Wiersbe)