



# World Christian Fellowship

[www.wcflondon.com](http://www.wcflondon.com)  
[wcflondon@gmail.com](mailto:wcflondon@gmail.com)

## Nehemiah Session 6

### Standing Firm in Opposition.

#### Nehemiah 4:1-23

#### 1. Opposition to God's Work (Nehemiah 4:1-3)

Sanballat and Tobiah mocked the Jews, attempting to discourage them from rebuilding Jerusalem's walls. Their ridicule was meant to weaken their resolve.

**Nehemiah 4:1-3**, *But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. <sup>2</sup>And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish—stones that are burned?" <sup>3</sup>Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall."*

### **Opposition & Mockery:**

**Sanballat** was furious that the Jews were rebuilding Jerusalem's wall and mocked them, trying to discourage their efforts.

### **Ridiculing Their Strength & Faith:**

He questioned their ability to succeed, sarcastically asking if they could complete the task and revive the burnt stones.

### **Tobiah's Insult:**

Tobiah added to the ridicule, joking that even a small fox could collapse their wall.

### **Perseverance:**

Despite the criticism, Nehemiah and the Jews continued their work, showing resilience and trust in God.

### **Biblical Parallels:**

- **Moses and Pharaoh (Exodus 5-14)** – Pharaoh resisted Moses' call to free the Israelites, yet Moses remained faithful.
- **Jesus and the Pharisees (John 8)** – Jesus faced opposition from religious leaders who sought to undermine His mission.
- **Jeremiah and False Prophets (Jeremiah 20:1-2)** – Jeremiah was persecuted for delivering God's message but remained steadfast.

- **Paul and the Judaizers (Galatians 1:6-9)** – Paul faced opposition from those distorting the gospel but boldly defended the truth.

### **Life Application Example:**

Imagine a Christian student in a secular university who boldly shares their faith, only to face mockery from classmates or scepticism from professors. Like Nehemiah, they must stay strong, relying on God's truth rather than public approval.

### **Application:**

Believers often face opposition when pursuing God's mission—whether in personal faith, ministry, or standing for biblical truth. We must recognize that opposition is inevitable but should not deter us.

## **2. Responding with Prayer and Action (Nehemiah 4:4-6)**

Nehemiah did not argue with his enemies.

Instead, he turned to God in prayer and continued working.

**Nehemiah 4:4-6**, *Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity!<sup>5</sup> Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have*

*provoked You to anger before the builders. <sup>6</sup>So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.*

### **Nehemiah's Prayer:**

In response to the mockery and opposition, Nehemiah prays to God, asking Him to deal with their enemies.

Remember Nehemiah always takes things to God not on himself or to the people.

### **Trust in Divine Justice:**

He asks God not to forgive their sins, showing his deep frustration with their attempts to hinder the rebuilding.

### **Continued Work:**

Despite opposition, the Jews remain determined and continue building the wall.

Don't loom to the opposition but keep your focus on God and to the great work God has entrusted to you.

### **Progress Made:**

The wall reaches half its intended height because the people are committed and have a strong will to work.

### **Are you progressing in the midst of opposition?**

The flights take off only against the wind.  
The eagle soars high only against the wind.

Opposition is an opportunity for you to grow.

This passage highlights perseverance, faith, and the power of prayer in overcoming obstacles.

### **Biblical Parallels:**

- **David and Saul (1 Samuel 18-24)** – David was pursued by Saul but trusted God rather than retaliating.
- **The Apostles and Persecution (Acts 4-5)** – Threatened for preaching the gospel, the apostles prayed for boldness and kept proclaiming Christ.
- **Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6:10-23)** – Daniel continued praying despite the king's decree and was delivered by God.
- **Hannah's Prayer (1 Samuel 1:9-20)** – Hannah faced ridicule but responded with fervent prayer, leading to God's blessing.

### **Life Application Example:**

A small church struggling with financial hardships might face discouragement. Instead of giving in to fear, they pray fervently and take faithful actions strengthening their outreach, and trusting God to provide.

### **Application:**

When facing criticism or spiritual attacks, our first response should be prayer.

However, **prayer must be accompanied by action**—continuing in faithfulness despite challenges.

### **3. Strengthening the People (Nehemiah 4:7-14)**

As threats increased, Nehemiah encouraged the people to trust in God and prepared them for battle. He stationed guards and reminded them that God would fight for them.

**Nehemiah 4:7-14**, *Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, <sup>8</sup> and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion. <sup>9</sup> Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night. <sup>10</sup> Then Judah said, “The strength of the labourers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall.” <sup>11</sup> And our adversaries said, “They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease.” <sup>12</sup> So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, “From whatever place you turn, they will be upon us.” <sup>13</sup> Therefore I*

*positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. <sup>14</sup>And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."*

### **Increased Opposition:**

**Sanballat, Tobiah, and others** became even more angry as the wall progressed and conspired to attack Jerusalem.

### **Nehemiah's Response:**

Instead of panicking, Nehemiah led the people in prayer and set up defences against potential attacks.

### **Continuous Vigilance:**

The builders worked with weapons at hand, ready to defend themselves while continuing construction.

### **Encouragement to the People:**

Nehemiah reminded the people not to fear their enemies but to trust in God, who is great and powerful.

This highlights the importance of **faith, preparation, and perseverance in the face of adversity.**

### **Biblical Parallels:**

- **Elijah and the Prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18)** – Elijah stood firm against hundreds of false prophets, trusting in God's power.
- **Paul and Silas in Prison (Acts 16:25-34)** – Despite opposition, they praised God and encouraged each other in faith.
- **Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 13-14)** – They strengthened the Israelites by reminding them of God's promises despite opposition.
- **Hezekiah's Leadership (2 Chronicles 32:1-8)** – Hezekiah encouraged his people to trust in God when facing Assyrian threats.

### **Life Application Example:**

A woman battling a serious illness finds strength through her faith community, receiving encouragement, prayers, and support from friends who remind her that God is fighting for her.

### **Application:**

In times of difficulty, we must strengthen ourselves and others through encouragement, preparation, and reliance on God. Whether in family, work, or ministry, we should equip ourselves spiritually and practically.

## 4. Working with Vigilance (Nehemiah 4:15-23)

The builders worked with tools in one hand and weapons in the other, staying alert to potential attacks.

**Nehemiah 4:15-23**, *And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work. <sup>16</sup> So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armour; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah. <sup>17</sup> Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. <sup>18</sup> Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me. <sup>19</sup> Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, "The work is great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. <sup>20</sup> Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us." <sup>21</sup> So we laboured in the work, and half of the men held the spears from daybreak until the stars appeared. <sup>22</sup> At the same time I also said to the people, "Let each man and his servant stay at night in Jerusalem, that they may be our guard by night and a working party by day." <sup>23</sup> So neither I, my brethren, my servants, nor the men of the guard who*

*followed me took off our clothes, except that everyone took them off for washing.*

**God Frustrates the Enemy's Plans:**

The enemies' plot to attack was discovered, and God caused their plans to fail.

**Work Resumes:**

The Jews returned to building the wall, undeterred by opposition.

**Prepared for Battle:** Half of the workers built while the other half stood guard with weapons.

**Constant Vigilance:** Even those carrying materials kept a weapon in hand, ready for defence.

**Nehemiah's Leadership:**

He ensured that everyone was armed and encouraged them to trust in God.

**Commitment to the Task:**

The people worked tirelessly, even staying overnight to protect the city.

This highlights **faith, perseverance, and the importance of being prepared while trusting in God.**

**Biblical Parallels:**

- **Gideon's Army (Judges 7)** – The soldiers remained alert and ready while trusting in God's strategy.
- **Jesus in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:40-41)** – Jesus urged His disciples to stay awake and pray, warning of spiritual opposition.
- **Peter's Warning (1 Peter 5:8)** – Peter cautioned believers to be vigilant because the enemy prowls like a roaring lion.
- **Paul's Armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-18)** – Paul emphasized spiritual vigilance through the armour of God.

**Life Application Example:**

A Christian entrepreneur faces ethical challenges in business but remains diligent praying before making decisions, standing firm against dishonest practices, and keeping faith central in their work.

**Application:**

We must remain spiritually vigilant, balancing our work with prayer and discernment. The enemy seeks to distract and

discourage, but staying focused on God's mission ensures victory.

Nehemiah 4 is a call to **perseverance, faith, and action**.

Just as Nehemiah and others throughout Scripture overcame opposition by trusting in God, **we too can stand firm in challenges today**—whether facing criticism, hardship, or spiritual attacks.

## **Conclusion:**

**Living with Courage and Faith in the Face of Opposition.**

Nehemiah 4 is more than just an ancient story—it is **our story today**.

The battles he faced—the ridicule, the threats, the discouragement—mirror the challenges we encounter in life.

Whether in our faith, our workplaces, our relationships, or our callings, opposition will come. The enemy will try to discourage, distract, and destroy, but like Nehemiah, **we are called to stand firm**.

**What can we take away from this?**

1. **Be committed to God's work** – Just as Nehemiah refused to stop rebuilding, we must pursue what God has called us to, even when the road is tough.
2. **Respond with prayer and action** – Don't let criticism or obstacles weaken your faith. Take everything to God, then move forward boldly.
3. **Encourage and strengthen one another** – We were never meant to fight alone. Build up your family, your church, and your community so that when the enemy comes, we stand united.
4. **Stay spiritually vigilant** – Never let distractions or discouragement pull you away from God's purpose. Guard your heart and remain steadfast in your faith.

**The walls in our lives will only be rebuilt if we rise up to build—** despite opposition, despite fear, despite doubts. So today, let us step forward, just as Nehemiah did, with faith, courage, and a heart fully surrendered to God.

**Are you ready to stand firm and rebuild what God has called you to?**

**Then let's rise and build together!**

