

I have worked with men that have a very difficult time working when there's any kind of resistance. If conditions get interrupted, if rhythms become disorganized they struggle and in many ways stop! In the passage we are going to look at, Nehemiah teaches us some valuable lessons on working through resistance-

Nehemiah 6:15–16 NCV The wall of Jerusalem was completed on the twenty-fifth day of the month of Elul. It took fifty-two days to rebuild.¹⁶ When all our enemies heard about it and all the nations around us saw it, they were shamed. They then understood that the work had been done with the help of our God.

I HELL INSPIRED ATTACKS:

A- One of the ways hell resists the work of God is through Weapons formed... **Isaiah 54:17** No weapon formed against you shall prosper...

1. Sometimes the weapons formed comes through people; **Nehemiah 6:1** Then Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and our other enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall and that there was not one gap in it. But I had not yet set the doors in the gates.

a. Context: Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem begin operating against the work of God, specifically against Nehemiah

B- This is still true today: In building the KOG; You will face attacks... Sometimes from people.

1. Think WHY? In order to distract from the work, to slow down the work, to consume you, to intimidate you

2. For WHAT? Where do these inspired attacks stem from?

a. Stands that you make, Judgements that needed to be made, Just because you are Doing Right (*rebuilding the wall*)

3. What matters is your response! ...Hell presses to see where you will yield... for some men, they yield to certain ppl

a. Elijah: stands against 400 prophets of Baal... but then Jezebel makes a threat and it spins him out-

i. This is strategic: **Matthew 26:31** For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered...

The inspired attack at times comes directly against Headship-

b. You must be aware of this possibility... Hell seeks to scatter/disorient the people of God.

II WORKING THROUGH RESISTANCE

A- Nehemiah works through the resistance- **Nehemiah 6:3** So I sent messengers to them with this answer: "I am doing a great work, and I can't come down. I don't want the work to stop while I leave to meet you."

1. We have to develop the ability to work through the resistance... Just because you come under attack doesn't mean everything can stop... Nehemiah understood the value of that-

2. So we need to understand where does that come from? How do you develop this?

a. Understanding Calling: **Nehemiah 6:3** "I am doing a great work, and I can't come down. I don't want the work to stop while I leave to meet you."

i. I know what I have been called to do, and that is NOT to meet with you... I will not be distracted from-

ii. This is what King Saul lacked, in his rejection & envy he became distracted and focused outside of his calling.

b. Understand Truth: **Nehemiah 6:8** So I sent him back this answer: "Nothing you are saying is really happening. You are just making it up in your own mind."

i. This simply isn't true, and I don't have to dedicate my time, mind, or defense to this... It isn't true-

ii. So many accusations came at Jesus, he ignored most of them! Because it simply wasn't true!

c. Trust God: **Nehemiah 6:9** But I prayed, "God, make me strong." **Nehemiah 6:14** I prayed, "My God, remember-

i. We can work through the resistance when we learn to trust God through the process! ...Give it to Him

3. See, it is possible to work through resistance, but these foundations must be in place.

a. These are protective... They protect you, protect the mission, protect the progress-

III ENEMIES PUT TO SHAME

A- The victory of our passage is that in spite of the enemies working against Nehemiah, he completed the work and these enemies were put to shame!

1. **Nehemiah 6:16** When all our enemies heard about it and all the nations around us saw it, they were shamed. They then understood that the work had been done with the help of our God.

a. Shamed/Disheartened literally means *to fall*-

b. Enemies will fall, and they will know WHY... *They understood God helped*-

2. God will see to it that right comes out right... but you have to work through it!

a. It can happen too often, guys stop too soon... They get distracted in the wrong things... they fight the wrong battle-

i. Do the work through the fight, and the enemies, God will deal with!

B- So, how do you respond to resistance?

1. What foundation is missing for you? Calling, Truth, Trust?

a. You can work through the resistance- progress doesn't have to stop!