



INJOY
Stewardship Solutions™



**RISING UP TO
BUILD WITHOUT
LETTING YOUR
GUARD DOWN**



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Text: Nehemiah 4:1-9

Introduction:

In the Phillips translation of the New Testament, 2 Corinthians 4:9 reads: "We are persecuted, but we never have to stand it alone: we may be knocked down but we are never knocked out" Nehemiah experienced this truth centuries before Paul wrote his letter to the Corinthians. Called by God to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem, Nehemiah faced formidable opposition to all that he was attempting to accomplish. The enemies tried to knock him down but they could not knock him out, and his response teaches us the importance of rising up to build without letting down your guard.

I. The Certainty of opposition (4:1-3):

A. The Nature of God's Will

1. God's will was clear and definitive: rebuild the wall.
2. God's will, however, did not allow for the wall to be rebuilt without opposition.
3. God's will is constantly in conflict with man's will.

B. The Nature of Opposition

When God's people rose up to build, their enemies rose up to attack with...

1. Anger (4:1)
2. Ridicule (4:1)
3. Questioning (4:2-3)
4. Criticism (4:3)
5. Sarcasm (4:3)

II. The Counteraction to Opposition (4:4-9):

With a two-fold response, God's people counteracted with prayer and perseverance.

A. Prayer (4:4-5)

1. Nehemiah talked to God about the opposition.
2. Nehemiah fought the opposition in prayer.
 - a. This was David's practice. (1 Samuel 17:47)
 - b. This was Daniel's practice. (Daniel 6:10)
 - c. This was Solomon's instruction. (Proverbs 15:28-29)
 - d. This was James' instruction. (James 1:5)

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B. Perseverance (4:6-9)

Nehemiah and the people persisted in doing God's will. Their example teaches us to..

1. Stay at the task and work with all your heart. (4:6)
2. Encourage one another.
3. Expect difficulties to intensify. (4:7-8)
4. When difficulties intensify, intensify your persistence in prayer. (4:9)
5. Exercise common sense and post a guard. (4:9)

Conclusion:

When we rise up to build, endeavoring to do God's will and bring Him glory, Satan will do all within his power to defeat and discourage us. The harder we serve and the more we purpose to achieve, the more we can expect opposition in all its ugly forms. Through prayer and perseverance, God emboldens us and empowers us to keep going, keep trusting and keep building.

