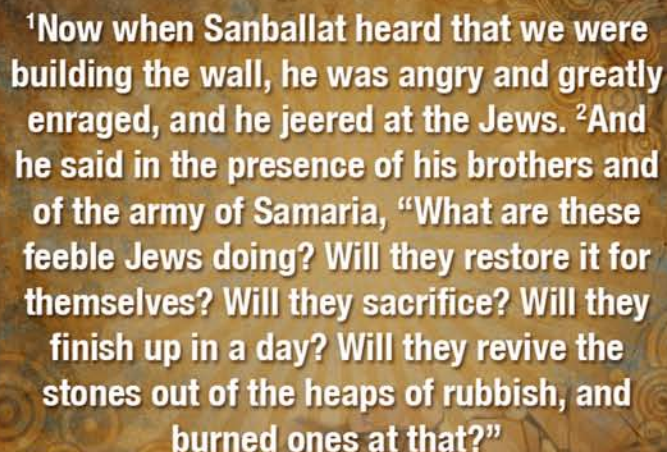




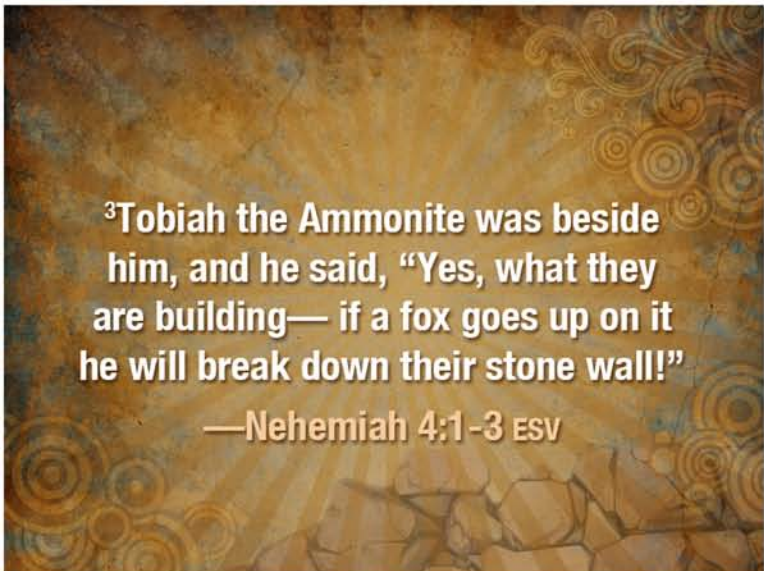
The only way to avoid criticism is to . . .
Say nothing. Be nothing. Do nothing.

01.tif



¹Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. ²And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?”

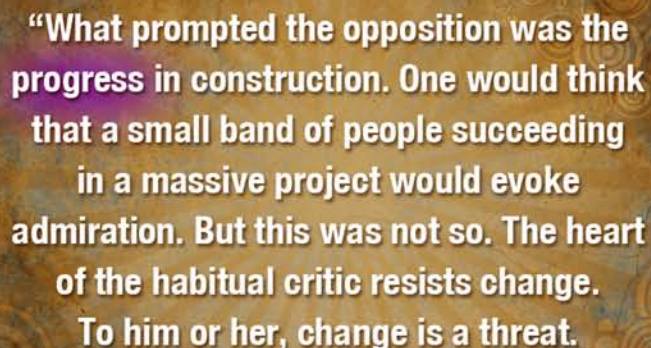
02.tif



³Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building— if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!”

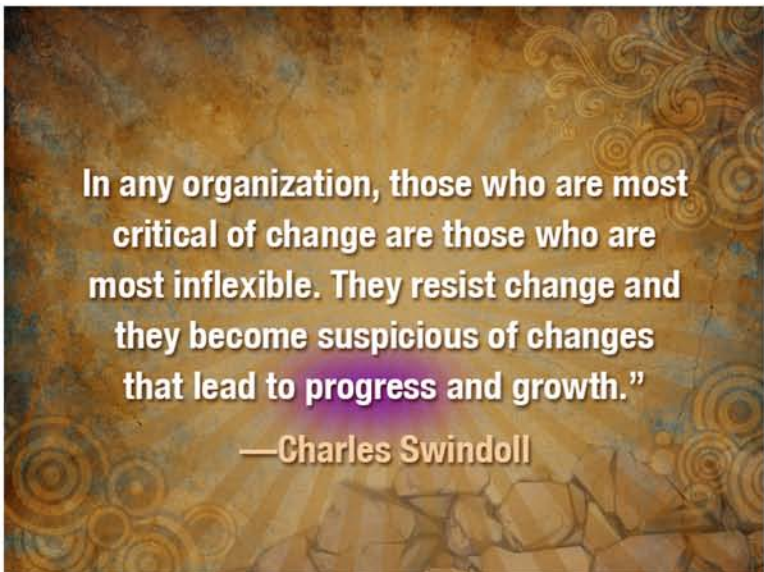
—Nehemiah 4:1-3 ESV

03.tif



“What prompted the opposition was the progress in construction. One would think that a small band of people succeeding in a massive project would evoke admiration. But this was not so. The heart of the habitual critic resists change. To him or her, change is a threat.

04.tif



In any organization, those who are most critical of change are those who are most inflexible. They resist change and they become suspicious of changes that lead to progress and growth.”

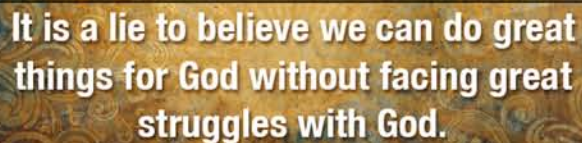
—Charles Swindoll

05.tif



Takeaway for Today:
There is no progress without pain.

06.tif



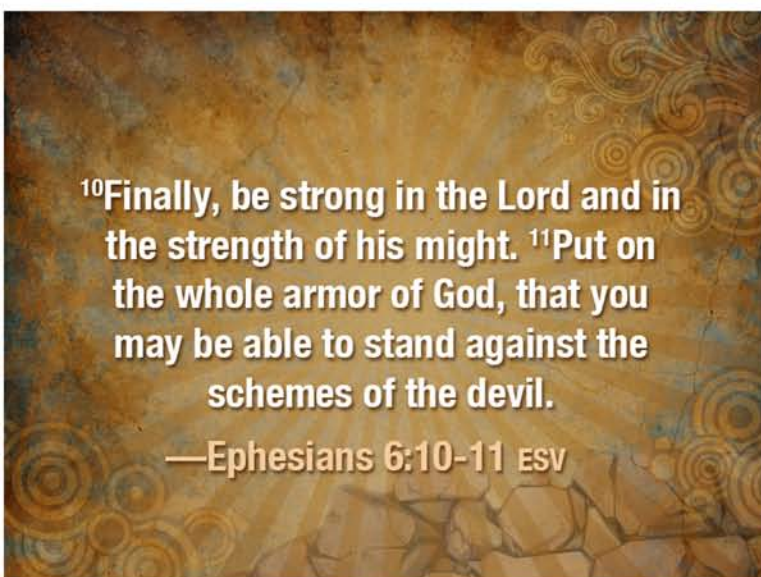
It is a lie to believe we can do great things for God without facing great struggles with God.

07.tif



Get Real About the Presence of Opposition

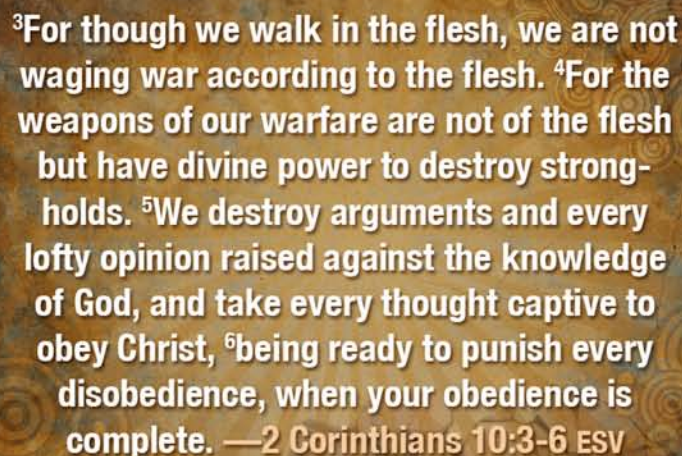
08.tif



¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

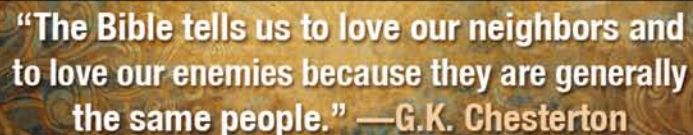
—Ephesians 6:10-11 ESV

09.tif



³For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. —2 Corinthians 10:3-6 ESV

10.tif



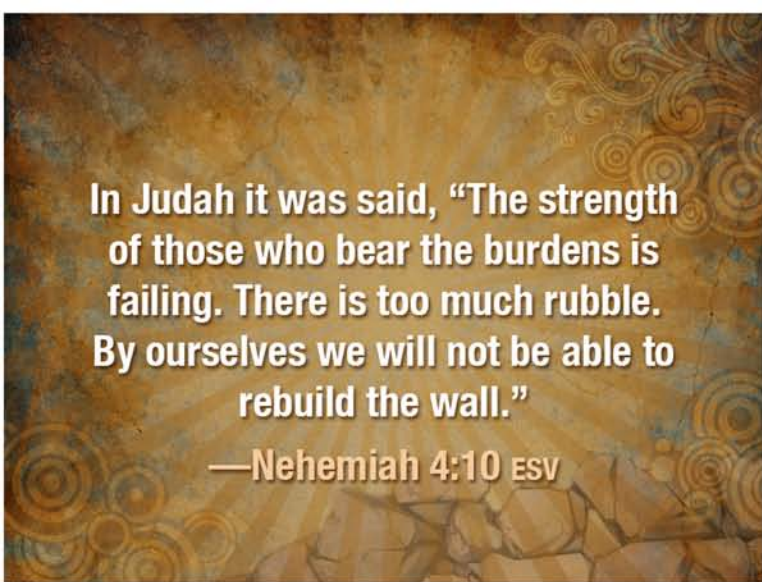
“The Bible tells us to love our neighbors and to love our enemies because they are generally the same people.” —G.K. Chesterton

11.tif



“We have met the enemy and he is us.”
—Walt Kelly


12.tif



In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall."

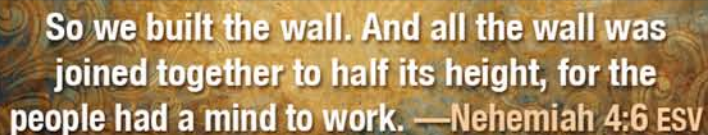
—Nehemiah 4:10 ESV

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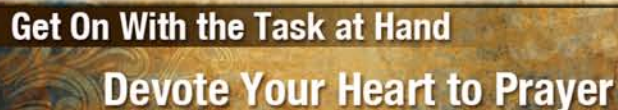
Get On With the Task at Hand

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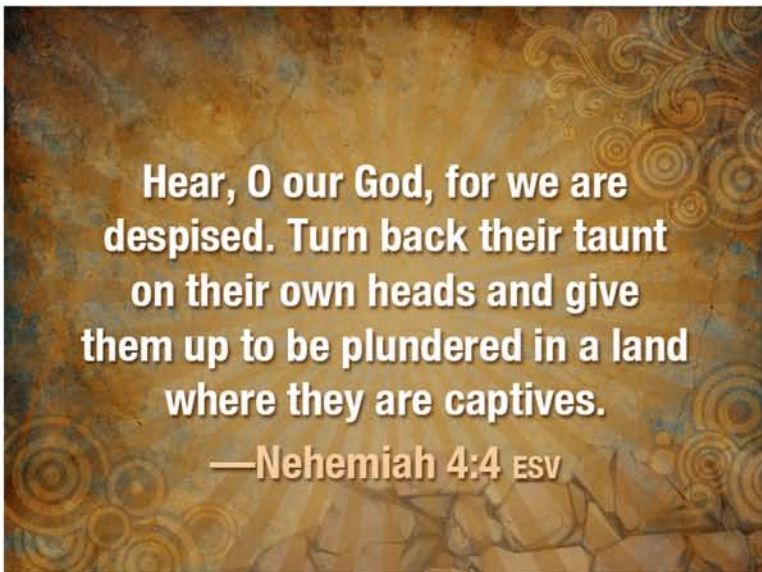
So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. —Nehemiah 4:6 ESV

15.tif



Get On With the Task at Hand
Devote Your Heart to Prayer

16.tif



Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives.

—Nehemiah 4:4 ESV

17.tif



Get On With the Task at Hand
Devote Your Mind to Work

18.tif

So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. —Nehemiah 4:6 ESV

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Get On With the Task at Hand

Devote Your Eye to Watch

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²¹So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out. ²²I also said to the people at that time, "Let every man and his servant pass the night within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day." —Nehemiah 4:21-22 ESV

21.tif

"It's not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or whether the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming..."

22.tif

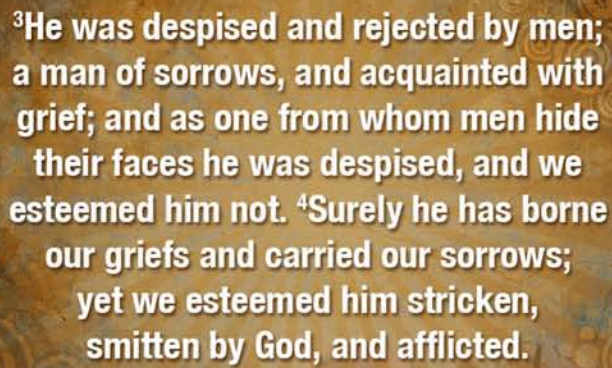
"... but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly."

23.tif

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much or suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory or defeat."

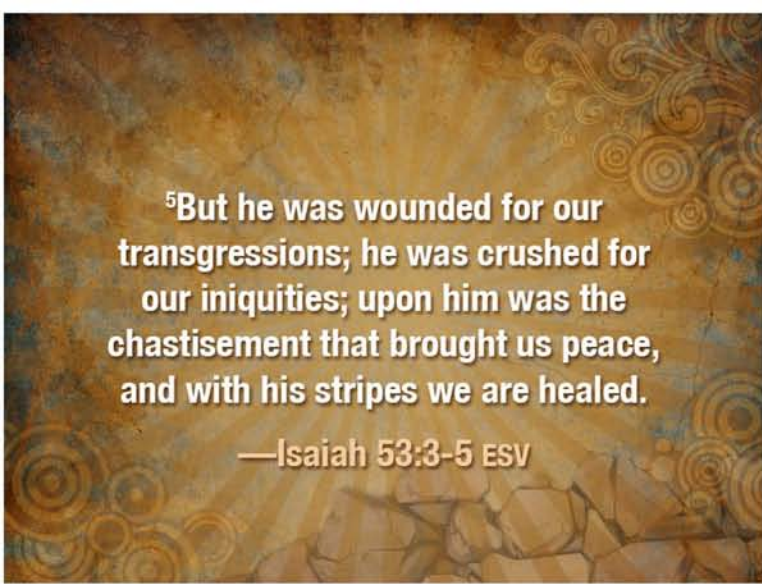
—Theodore Roosevelt

24.tif



³He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with
grief; and as one from whom men hide
their faces he was despised, and we
esteemed him not. ⁴Surely he has borne
our griefs and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

25.tif



⁵But he was wounded for our
transgressions; he was crushed for
our iniquities; upon him was the
chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.

—Isaiah 53:3-5 ESV

26.tif