



**EXPECTING OPPOSITION**

#FromTheGroundUpSeries • Part 3 • July 28-29, 2018

Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work. But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. (Nehemiah 2:17–19)

Anytime I try to do anything \_\_\_\_\_  
there is going to be \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus: “In this life you will have trouble.” (John 16:33)

✓ My enemy will try to \_\_\_\_\_ me.

Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, (Nehemiah 4:1)

Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, “That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!” (Nehemiah 4:3)

✓ My enemy will try to \_\_\_\_\_ me.

When our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained—though we had not yet set up the doors in the gates. They sent me a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me, (Nehemiah 6:1–2)

✓ My enemy will try to \_\_\_\_\_ me.

“There is a rumor, and Geshem tells me it is true, that he had heard you and the Jews are planning to rebel and that is why you are building the wall. According to his reports, you plan to be their king. You can be very sure that this report will get back to the king, so I suggest that you come and talk it over with me.” They were hoping to intimidate me and make me sin. Then they would be able to accuse and discredit me. (Nehemiah 6:4–7, 13)

**FIGHT PLAN**

“Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.” We all returned to our work on the wall. But from then on, the laborers carried on their work with one hand and holding a weapon in the other hand. (Nehemiah 4:14–17)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ first.

Then I prayed, “Hear us, our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads.” (Nehemiah 4:4)

They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed.” But I prayed, “Now strengthen my hands.” (Nehemiah 6:9)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ purpose.

So I replied by sending this message to them: “I am engaged in a great work, so I can’t come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?” (Nehemiah 6:2–3)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ close.

“The work is very spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. When you hear the blast of the trumpet, rush to join us. Then our God will fight for us!” (Nehemiah 4:19–20)

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm. (Proverbs 13:20)

**BATTLE-TESTED TRUTH**

✓ \_\_\_\_\_ lose the fight every time.

“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.” (Matthew 15:8–9)

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven... on Judgment day, many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ ‘We prophesied in your name and cast out demons and performed many miracles?’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you!’” (Matthew 7:21–23)

✓ I need \_\_\_\_\_

The joy of the Lord is your strength. (Nehemiah 10:8)

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**Anytime I try to do anything significant,  
there is going to be opposition.**

Jesus: “In this life you will have trouble.” (John 16:33)

### ✓ My enemy will try to discourage me.

Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, (Nehemiah 4:1)

Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, “That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!” (Nehemiah 4:3)

### ✓ My enemy will try to distract me.

When our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained—though we had not yet set up the doors in the gates. They sent me a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me, (Nehemiah 6:1–2)

### ✓ My enemy will try to discredit me.

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## FIGHT PLAN

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### 1. Pray first.

Then I prayed, “Hear us, our God, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads.” (Nehemiah 4:4)

They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed.” But I prayed, “Now strengthen my hands.” (Nehemiah 6:9)

### 2. Press on to God’s purpose.

So I replied by sending this message to them: “I am engaged in a great work, so I can’t come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?” (Nehemiah 6:2–3)

### 3. Pull the right people close.

“The work is very spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. When you hear the blast of the trumpet, rush to join us. Then our God will fight for us!” (Nehemiah 4:19–20)

Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm. (Proverbs 13:20)

## BATTLE-TESTED TRUTH

### ✓ Pretenders lose the fight every time.

“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.” (Matthew 15:8–9)

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven... on Judgment day, many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ ‘We prophesied in your name and cast out demons and performed many miracles?’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you!’” (Matthew 7:21–23)

### ✓ I need authentic faith.

The joy of the Lord is your strength. (Nehemiah 10:8)