

How Did Nehemiah Face Opposition with Integrity?

1. He Prayed Throughout His Life and Work

- Praying & fasting seeking God - “for days” asking, mourning, confessing and seeking direction (Neh 1:4-11)
- Prayer in the middle of a conversation with King Artaxerxes (Neh 2:4-5)
- Prayer in the lows (Nehemiah 4:4-5)
- Prayer in danger - “We prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night” (Neh 4:9)
- Prayer nearing the finish line “But now, O God, strengthen my hands” (Neh 6:9)

0. He Unified People - Through Direction and Correction

- He gave **Direction** - “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.” Nehemiah 2:17 NIV
- He dealt with **Correction** of his own people

Nehemiah 5:6-9 NIV

“When I heard their outcry and these charges, I was **very angry**. I pondered them in my mind and then accused the nobles and officials. I told them, “You are charging your own people interest!” So I called together a large meeting to deal with them and said: “As far as possible, we have bought back our fellow Jews who were sold to the Gentiles. Now you are selling your own people, only for them to be sold back to us!” They kept quiet, because they could find nothing to say. So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you **walk in the fear of our God** to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?”

Nehemiah’s Response and application:

1. “I was very angry.”
2. “I pondered them in my mind...”
 - a. Decides what his part is regarding the injustice
 - a. He took the next right step (He called the people together)
2. Called for a face to face meeting to speak to the injustice
3. His care was more about God’s desire than his own

0. He Kept Working - Grit

Nehemiah 6:1-8 NIV

“When word came to Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall and not a gap was left in it—though up to that time I had not set the doors in the gates—Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: “Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono.” But they were **scheming to harm me**; I sent messengers to them with this reply: “**I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?**” Four times they sent me the same message, and each time I gave them the same answer. Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter in which was written: “It is reported among the nations—and Geshem says it is true—that you and the Jews are plotting to revolt, and therefore you are building the wall. Moreover, according to these reports you are about to become their king and have even appointed prophets to make this proclamation about you in Jerusalem: ‘There is a king in Judah!’ Now this report will get back to the king;

so come, let us meet together.” I sent him this reply: **“Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just making it up out of your head.”**

Nehemiah’s Responses to Outside Opposition:

1. He kept working!
2. He discerned what was important and what was a waste of time.
3. He rarely responded to distractors - only when his character was questioned.
4. When discouraged, weak, not sure if he could finish...He continued to pray.

Nehemiah 6:9 NIV

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 6:15-16 NIV

*“So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in **fifty-two days**. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work **had been done with the help of our God.**”*

Key Take-Aways:

1. Know our **Real Purpose** in this World - Matthew 28:18-20
2. Know the **Real Enemy** - Ephesians 6:12
3. Know the **Real War** - 2 Corinthians 10:1-4
4. Know the **Real End of the Story** - 1 Peter 3:13-17, John 16:32-33



Sample Small Group Questions
<https://bit.ly/GroupDiscussionQuestions>



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