

Review

- **Week 1:** *God-Centered Heart: God uses ordinary people who align with His heart and priorities – and who pray, plan, and then do something.*
- **Week 2:** *Vision and Opposition: Keeping our focus and purpose on God vision for His church is the best way to persevere through all and any opposition.*

RESPONDING TO OPPOSITION

Everyone will face trials, tribulations, opposition, and persecution.

- We can face them w/ God or not.
- We can face them alone or with others.
- *"Opposition is not only an evidence that God is blessing, but it is also an opportunity for us to grow."* -Warren Wiersbe

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." – **John 16:33 (ESV)**

Opposition from Outside

- Ridicule and Mocking (*Chapter 4*)
- Threats and Confusion (*Chapter 4*)
- Discouragement, Intimidation, and Fear (*Chapter 4*)
- Distraction and Persistence (*Chapter 6*)
- Accusations (*Chapter 6*)

Opposition from Inside

- Taking advantage of one another. (*Chapter 5*)
- Pursuing one's own selfish ambition and gain. (*Chapters 5 & 13*)
- Not loving one another. (*Chapter 5*)

Response to Opposition – Staying on Mission

1. Be Committed to God

Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV) – ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

- a. Wholly Abide & Rely on God - John 14
- b. Prayer – Time in God's Word – Submit and Obey

John 10:27-29 (NIV) – ²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

Question: What areas of your life and relationships do you struggle being committed to God?

2. Be Committed to the Body

- a. Be aware of the needs of others. Be ready to help others.

1 Peter 4:8-10 (NIV) — ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

- b. Take responsibility for your part of ‘the wall’, your part of the body of Christ.

Romans 12:4-6a (ESV) — ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: ...”

Question: Do you see yourself as part of the body of Christ? How is God using, or could God use you to serve others?

3. Be Committed to God’s Mission

- a. Be Realistic – Life will have trials

James 1:2-4 (NIV) — ² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- b. Accept that the enemy will be persistent to take you off course.

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NIV) — ⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

- c. Be Prepared: Know the mission and your part with a tool in one hand, a sword in the other. The Armor of God - Ephesians 6:10-20

1 Corinthians 16:13 (NIV) — ¹³ Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.

Question: How do you know if you are on God’s Mission or your own mission?

“... I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.” — **Ephesians 6:19b-20 (NIV)**

TAKE AWAY: _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What have you learned from Nehemiah’s example of leading and serving God and others?
- What opposition have you faced as a disciple of Jesus?
- What helps you to grow in your relationship with Jesus, and helps you stay focused on Him daily?
- What are ways you can help and encourage other believers (home, group, ministry team, etc.)?
- In being On Mission w/ Jesus, how would you describe your part of ‘the wall’?

