

**Nehemiah**  
**“Strengthen My Hands”**  
**(Nehemiah 6:9)**

**Nehemiah Chapter 4: Facing Opposition**

**Haters oppose the work (v 1-6)**

- 1) What was the response of Sanballat and Tobiah to the people’s work on the walls of Jerusalem? Describe some of the characteristics of that opposition. Who or what is behind it? What kinds of opposition have you encountered in your walk of faith?

*Reflect: Proverbs 18:21; 1 Samuel 17:41-47; Philippians 4:8*

**Nehemiah’s response: He prayed and kept pressing forward (v 4-6)**

- 2) How did Nehemiah respond to this opposition? What can we learn from his example?

**Reflect:** *God’s way to handle opposition: Romans 12:19; 1 Timothy 4:7*

**Fighters oppose the work (v 7-9)**

- 1) What do Nehemiah’s enemies do next? What does this teach us about the tactics of our spiritual enemies?

**Reflect:** *Our true enemy: John 10:10a; 1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4*

- 2) What benefit is there in understanding the reality and nature of spiritual warfare?

**Nehemiah’s response: He prayed and prepared (v 9)**

- 3) What Nehemiah do first? What does Nehemiah’s immediate preparation say about the his understanding of the importance of preparation? How can we be more prepared for spiritual battles?

*Reflect: Spiritual warfare: Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 John 4:1; James 4:6; Galatians 5:16*

**Naysayers oppose the work of God—with discouragement (v 10-14)**

- 1) The battle with discouragement affects every follower of God at different times. What biblical truths have you learned through Nehemiah’s story (so far) or through your own life that have helped you anticipate and/or overcome discouragement? **Reflect:** *Hebrews 12:1-2a; Psalm 77:11; James 5:19-20*

**Nehemiah responded by reminding them of God (v 14)**

Keeping our focus on God is essential to our spiritual health. How can persevering together help us maintain our focus and keep us from discouragement?