

LEAVING A LEGACY...

(4) Finishing Strong

Nehemiah 6:1...

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...

**THE CLOSER YOU GET TO DOING WHAT GOD WANTS DONE...
THE HARDER YOUR ENEMY WILL FIGHT TO STOP YOU!**

The **First Way** your **Enemy** will try and keep you from **FINISHING STRONG...**

1. Your Enemy Will Try To DISTRACT You!

Nehemiah 6:2...

Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: **"Come... let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono."**

The **First Thing** you **SAY** when your **Enemy Attacks** you this way...

1. "I'M... NOT... COMIN'... DOWN!"

Nehemiah 6:2-3...

Sanballat and Geshem sent me this message: **"Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono."** They were scheming to harm me; 3 so 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?"

"I'M... NOT... COMIN'... DOWN!"

Don't **TRY** and **BECOME SOMETHING** that **YOU'RE NOT...**
STAY ON THE WALL and **PERFECT** the **SOMETHING** that **YOU ARE!**

Don't let your **IDENTITY** become wrapped up in your
"PERFORMANCE" rather than your **"POSITION"** as **HIS CHILD!**

The **Second Way** your **Enemy** will try and keep you from **FINISHING STRONG...**

2. Your Enemy Will Try To DISCREDIT You!

First Way the Enemy tries to DISCREDIT you...

1. SPREADING RUMORS!

The **MORE** you **DO** for **GOD**... the **MORE** people will **GOSSIP** about you!

Nehemiah 6:5-7...

Then, the fifth time, **Sanballat** sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an **unsealed letter** 6 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** 7 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.

Here's what the Bible has to say about **CRITICS / GOSSIPS** and **SLANDERERS**...

Proverbs 11:12-13...

Whoever **derides** their neighbor has **no sense**, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue. 13 A **gossip betrays a confidence**, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

Proverbs 16:28...

A **perverse person stirs up conflict**, and a **gossip separates close friends**.

TAKE IT TO GOD... GET BACK TO WORK!

Second Way the Enemy tries to DISCREDIT you...

2. TEMPT YOU to COMPROMISE!

Nehemiah 6:10...

One day I went to the house of **Shemaiah** son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut in at his home. He said... "Let us meet in the house of God, inside the **temple**... and let us close the temple doors... because men are coming to kill you - by night they are coming to kill you."

~ ENTITLEMENT ~

As you **RISE** in **SPIRITUAL EFFECTIVENESS**...

Your **Spiritual Enemy** will do **EVERYTHING** it takes to make you think that
YOU ARE MORE... THAN WHAT YOU REALLY ARE!

~ RENDERING YOU INEFFECTIVE ~

HE WANTS YOU... OFF THE WALL!

The **Second Thing** you **SAY** when your **Enemy Attacks** you this way...

2. "I'M... NOT... GIVIN'... UP!"

Nehemiah 6:11-13...

But I said, "Should a man like me run away? Or should someone like me go into the temple to save his life? I... **WILL... NOT... GO!**" 12 I realized that God had not sent him, but that he had prophesied against me because **Tobiah** and **Sanballat** had hired him. 13 He had been hired to **intimidate me** so that I would **commit a sin** by doing this, and then they would give me a **bad name** to **discredit me**.

WHO DOES GOD USE...?

GOD USES... NOBODY'S!

God's in the business of taking **NOBODY'S** and making them **SOMEBODY'S**...
Because there are **NO NOBODY'S** in the **Kingdom of God!**

WHO DOES GOD USE...?

GOD ALSO USES... LEADERS!

-Who know that **PASSION** is more important than **POSITION!**

-Who have a **CLEAR PLAN**...

Because they know that **FAILING TO PLAN** is really like **PLANNING TO FAIL!**

-Who **PRAY**... Because if **PRAYER** isn't really necessary in your **MISSION**...
then your **MISSION** isn't **BIG ENOUGH!**

-Who are whole-heartedly **WILLING** to **TAKE THE NEXT STEP**...
even when they can't **SEE** the **STEP IN FRONT OF THEM!**

WHO DOES GOD USE...?

GOD ALSO USES...

PRAYING LEADERS WHO KNOW HOW TO DEFEAT DISCOURAGEMENT!

*-Who realize that when they face **Spiritual Opposition**... it's not because they doing something **WRONG**... it's probably because they're doing something **RIGHT!***

*-Who recognize that **DISCOURAGEMENT** often comes from the **OUTSIDE** and from the **INSIDE!***

*-Who also recognize that the **ONLY WAY** to **DEFEAT** that **DISCOURAGEMENT** is to... **TAKE IT TO GOD...** (And then...) **GET BACK TO WORK!***

WHO DOES GOD USE...?

GOD ALSO USES...

PRAYING LEADERS WHO KNOW HOW TO FINISH STRONG... THE JOB THEY STARTED!

*-Who absolutely refuse... **TO COME DOWN OFF THE WALL!***

“I’M... NOT... COMIN’... DOWN!”

*-Who also know how to... in the face of immense opposition... dig their heels in deeper... grab the hammer a little tighter... and won't **GIVE IN TO COMPROMISE!***

“I’M... NOT... GIVIN’... IN!”
