

**Pastor Scott Baker 7/7/24**

When you step up to serve God, the enemy will step up his **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** on you.
**(John 15:20**; **2 Timothy 3:12**; **1 Peter 4:12; 1 Peter 5:8-9)**

**Obstacles we face as we strive to faithfully serve God:**

**1. Opposition from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! (v.1-3)**

Ridicule and insults can be very discouraging and a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** from the work God has called you to do.

Our battle is not ultimately with people but with the forces behind those people, forces that do not want God’s plans and purposes to be **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**! **(Ephesians 6:11-12)**

**Nehemiah’s response:**

The proper response to persecution is to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**!

**(v.4-5; Psalm 139:17-22)**

As they turned their attention away from the opposition and the obstacles and put it on God, He gave the people **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**! **(v.6)**

When opposition and obstacles come, pray and persevere!

As long as you are being faithful to God and doing His work, the enemy will be at work! He is not going to roll over and give up because of your **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. **(v.7-8)**

**Nehemiah’s and the people’s response:**

They prayed but they also used the wisdom God had given them to take the appropriate **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** measures! **(v.9)**

God’s Word clearly teaches us to be **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** when it comes to the opposition and obstacles we face. **(1 Peter 5:8-9)**



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**2. Opposition from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! (v.10-11)**

We are human! We are not perfect. We will have our moments when we allow the obstacles the enemy throws at us to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** us.

The people were beginning to fear for their lives. Fear is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** from God! **(v.11; 2 Timothy 1:7)**

**3. Opposition from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, again! (v.12)**

We expect opposition from the those opposed to God, those on the outside, unbelievers. What we don’t expect is opposition and obstacles from those **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to us, our family, friends, fellow believers. Let’s call this **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** fire,and it causes harm as well!

**HOW TO DEAL WITH THE OBSTACLES OF SERVING:**

**A) Maintain the proper \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!**

In order to maintain the proper perspective, we must be **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** to God which will lead us to pray, persevere and also take preventative measures! **(v.13-14)**

Believe God **\_\_\_\_** who He says He is and can **\_\_\_\_** what He says He can do! **(v.15)**

**B) Continue to take the right \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ measures! (v.16-23)**

When serving God, we must not only be prepared to do the work He has called us to do, but we must be spiritually ready to fight the opposition so that the work is not **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**!

We must be **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** for battle! **(Ephesians 6:10-18)**

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