

Life Restoration Is Hard Work It Has Opposition

In Nehemiah, as in many other places in Scripture, we learn that the devil has two main ways of working against us.

First, the devil comes, “like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour,” 1 Peter 5:8b
Second, the Bible reveals that he can suddenly become “an angel of light,” 2 Corinthians 11:14b. He comes with smiling, gracious accommodation, enticing promises and flattering words, assuring us that what he proposes will cost us nothing.

Internal Problems and Social Reformation

Satan, the unseen enemy, uses many of approaches to see that we fail in restoring our lives. He will send opposition from without and from within.

Opposition From Within

The enemy will try to stop us with internal fighting.

Satan will always try to use those nearest us, those who are in reality, fighting with us, to hinder us.

The devil tried to stop the restoration by internal fighting. It came in the form of greed.

Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; in order for us to eat and stay alive, we must get grain.” Nehemiah 5:2

Opposition Comes From Foes Posing As Friends

The enemy will try to distract us with fake friends.

“That Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, ‘Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono,’ but they thought to do me mischief.”

It is unfortunately possible that your enemies will at times try to befriend you for harm.
6:1-2

We must let nothing take us from our task of modeling a different lifestyle so that those who are being ruined by wrongful practices will see something that offers deliverance.

Many times we are impacting and influencing the lives of others in powerful and inspiring ways, (sometimes especially through how we respond to hardship) and do not even realize it.

Opposition Comes By False Accusation

The enemy will try to threaten us with lies

When the enemy cannot accomplish his purpose by offering “peace and friendliness”, he switches back to his original tactic of “threats and danger”. This arm-twisting tactic was used and designed to put pressure on Nehemiah to yield to their solicitation, and thus fall into their trap. He did not waver.

And in it these words were recorded: It is said among the nations, and Geshem says so, that you and the Jews are hoping to make yourselves free from the king’s authority; and that this is why you are building the wall: and they say that it is your purpose to be their king. 6:6

Opposition Comes by Subterfuge & Slander

The enemy always uses lies and trickery.

Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up; and he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay you; yes, in the night will they come to slay you.” 6:10

The lesson: God never intends to deliver us by going against His guidelines.

Opposition Comes By Fear

The enemy will try to frighten us into disobedience.

And they said much before me of the good he had done, and gave him accounts of my words. And Tobiah sent letters with the purpose of causing me fear. 6:19

A popular message today is Jesus “wants you to be happy” and in order for that to happen “He will make sure you have no difficulties.” We cannot expect our lives to be without difficulty or struggle. That is what the world seeks. That is a confused and distorted view of life, but it is not ours. What is missed and not understood by many is how much joy, how many blessings come in knowing God, in obeying Him, in seeking His purposes for us. ...In good times, and in bad. The enemy (Satan) will never quit. If he cannot undermine us with fear and flattery, he will try gossip and false rumors. He will always try to stop our life restoration. He will come as an angle of light, or as a roaring lion.

The truth of opposition proves to us that the devil never quits. He is never going to give up while we are still alive. But like Nehemiah, we can hold steady by praying, we can continue working by following God’s guidelines, and we can see our lives restored.