

## REBUILD SERIES – THE OPPOSITION OF A VISION

**As I was preparing, I thought do I call this: Standing strong through opposition, persevere? And I sensed the Lord saying, you are called to be fruitful in the driest season, you are called to take ground for God, to share the gospel, to see the sick healed and to free captives even in the darkest season of your life. I want to give my people a vision to live by, not a blueprint to survive by.**

**Nehemiah had a VISION! He knew his calling. He knew he was called to build.**

⇒ **He was willing to leave the luxury of a palace and all that came with that, to go and build a wall in the ruins with God's people.**

⇒ There's a principle here that I've seen time and time again in my life:  
**God will always give you the what before he gives you the how**

**Many people** get caught up in the how and they never step out in faith.

- Commitment to God precedes the resources that follow.

**Nehemiah was obedient to what God had called him to do.**

Our role isn't to question the how, but to be obedient.

**If you've been wondering why there has been so much opposition** in your life lately, chances are, you're making headway into God's Kingdom.

### **Neh 4:4-5,9**

#### **Opposition to the Rebuilding**

*4 When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, <sup>2</sup> and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?"*

*<sup>3</sup> Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!"*

⇒ **OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S LEADING ATTRACTS OPPOSITION**

When we get excited about something, and we commit to it, we soon realize that not everyone gets excited about what we're excited about. In fact, some people get upset and angry.

#### **Nehemiah encounters this onslaught of insults**

- **They were angry that Nehemiah** would come and build a wall and seal them out of Jerusalem. Emotions were flaring
- **Their anger turns into INSULT.** They despised the wall. Tobiah rips the wall off by saying hey if a fox climbs on the wall it will break!

⇒ **Notice has those opposed stuck together** and fed off of each other's anger and hate

**Would it not be normal** but us to want to retaliate? But look at Nehemiah's response:

**<sup>4</sup> Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. <sup>5</sup> Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.**

**Nehemiah in his wisdom, doesn't say a thing back to them, but turns to God in prayer.**

- 1) He asks God to **notice the persecution** that they're facing
- 2) He asks God to **avenge their cause**. Nehemiah's saying c'mon God, their hearts are hardened!

**This only stirred the Israelites on more** to work with all of their heart and passion!

<sup>6</sup>*So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, **for the people worked with all their heart.***

That's us! In times of crisis, **we don't shrink back in our faith. We fall back into the arms of God, and he will give us wisdom, creative ideas, and boldness to step out and bring his kingdom onto earth.**

© **There's a guy on Instagram that I follow by the name of EJ Gaines said the following this past week:**

*"We have long been living in 'uncertain times' The only difference is that, in 2020, we've finally been humbled to the point of having to say so. And many of us needed that"*

Relinquish control to God, and see what he will do through your life

## **HOW THE ENEMY OPPOSES US? – a number of ways**

### **SPREADING LIES & DECEPTION**

#### **Neh 6:5-8**

<sup>5</sup>*Then, the fifth time, Sanballat sent his aide to me with the same message, and in his hand was an unsealed letter <sup>6</sup>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 <sup>7</sup>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."<sup>8</sup> I sent him this reply: "Nothing like what you are saying is happening; you are just making it up out of your head."*

**Lies can spread like wildfire**, and they can spread through rumours. If you hear something about someone that unsettles you, talk to them, don't talk about them. Go to them.

© **I remember when I was youth pastoring at my old church.** A guy started coming to our youth, and after some time, he started turning people against me and spreading lies about me. This could have potentially caused a real problem.

⇒ **This is why we need to keep accountable** and be vulnerable with trusted friends

### **INVOKING FEAR**

#### **Neh 6:9**

<sup>9</sup>*They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed." But I prayed, "Now strengthen my hands."*

© **Story of us battling with Fear:** Fear of future, preoccupation, not living in the now.

- © **When I live in preoccupation, I don't live in the now, and I will miss the promptings from the Holy Spirit, I will miss relationships, moments, I will live in fear.**

**Victor Thomas** recently put a quote by Corrie Ten Boom on Facebook recently:  
“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength”

## **INTIMIDATION**

**Sanballat and Tobiah had hired someone to intimidate Nehemiah**

The enemy loves to sow seeds of doubt in our minds. Make us feel threatened..

**What are some other subtle ways that enemy opposed us?**

## **DISTRACTION**

Busyness / Health or financial issues

This year, we have been in the fire in many ways. Besides COVID

- Em was involved in a serious car accident
- Em's brother was in ICU for over a week in Joburg
- My mom experienced a huge health scare and ended up in ICU
- I had to go for knee surgery

Before we know it, we've completely lost sight of what God had called us to. The web of distraction..

## **What about ISOLATION**

We believe that we're fine alone, that we don't need community, friendship, accountability. I'm not saying that we shouldn't seek solitude.. in fact

***Dallas Willard says:***

*“Solitude well practiced will break the power of busyness, haste, isolation, and loneliness. You will see that the world is not on your shoulders after all. You will find yourself, and God will find you in new ways. Silence also brings Sabbath to you. It completes solitude, for without it you cannot be alone. Far from being a mere absence, silence allows the reality of God to stand in the midst of your life. God does not ordinarily compete for our attention. In silence we come to attend”*

It's important to pull away, but don't isolate yourself

**Others: SELF-RELIANCE / SHAME / COMPARISON**

**How is opposition playing out in your life? Or perhaps the question should be:**

**HOW DO WE RESPOND TO OPPOSITION?**

- 1) WE TURN TO GOD, WE SEEK HIM, WE WAIT ON HIM, AND WE AIM TO LIVE A PURE AND BLAMELESS LIFE IN EVERY REGARD**

Live completely upright..why..because this puts the enemy to shame. Not playing him at his game.

- ⊙ **You might have watched: Chasing the sun** – the story of how the springboks won the world cup under Rassie Erasmus' leadership. Now besides all the flopping which I'm not condoning, one of the main reasons the boks won was because they never played the opposing teams at their own game, they remained true to their strength. Physicality, they tired the opposing teams out..

What game plan has God given us?

## 2) **WE TAKE UP OUR AUTHORITY AND WE RESIST THE ENEMY. WE RE-ALIGN OURSELVES IN GOD'S TRUTH**

### **Eph 6:10-13 TPT**

*<sup>10</sup> Now my beloved ones, I have saved these most important truths for last: Be supernaturally infused with strength through your life-union with the Lord Jesus. Stand victorious with the force of his explosive power flowing in and through you.<sup>11</sup> Put on God's complete set of armor provided for us, so that you will be protected as you fight against the evil strategies of the accuser!<sup>12</sup> Your hand-to-hand combat is not with human beings, but with the highest principalities and authorities operating in rebellion under the heavenly realms. For they are a powerful class of demon-gods and evil spirits that hold this dark world in bondage <sup>13</sup> Because of this, you must wear all the armor that God provides so you're protected as you confront the slanderer, for you are destined for all things and will rise victorious.*

- ⇒ **This is important** – Opposition often comes through people. **People are not the enemy.** No matter what was said or done, we need to be discerning to see what spirit is lying behind that person's action. When we make people the enemy, we can't love them.

**Our flesh isn't against flesh and blood.** We need to have DISCERNMENT

We are all sinful and it's so easy to align with a mistruth or a deceptive thought.

**All of us will experience opposition,** if you don't think you are, you probably just aren't seeing it. There's too much at stake for the enemy. He wants every person on this earth to be deceived. **Our prayer needs to be: God give me the discernment to see what's reality of the spiritual realm.**

- ⊙ **Story of Stuart Lees and his Wife.** Stuart asked his wife to do something at home for him. A chore, and completely out of character, she snapped at him...the Shadow left.

**I don't say this to scare us, but I say this to remind us, that it's a spiritual battle, and we win the battle by aligning ourselves with the mind of Christ.**

### **CLOSE - What's come against you recently? FEAR**

I sense that some of you had visions and dreams on your heart, and the last 8 months have destroyed those. God wants to reignite those. We are not surviving; we live under God's economy and we will flourish in his Kingdom!

*"Through You we will push back our adversaries; Through Your name we will trample down those who rise up against us." Ps. 44:5*

*"Do not be afraid of them; the LORD your God himself will fight for you." Deut. 3:22*

## PM Interview – Hennie & Bronwyn

Welcome guys

- 1) Guys 2020 has been an interesting journey for you. I know you've encountered opposition in various ways. Tell us a briefly about China, was this an opposition?  
**Both share**
- 2) When it comes to opposition, I know fear has played a role in both of your lives. Won't you unpack this a little. **Bron various, Hennie Financial**
- 3) Have there been times when you've felt ready to through in the towel and quit?  
**Bron Teaching, Hennie Supporting role**
- 4) Guys I know the journey of tithing and giving to God has been one with opposition. What wisdom or reassurance has God given you?
- 5) Has prayer and staying close to God been an important part of resisting?
- 6) What closing words of advice would you give to us tonight? Perhaps knowing how to identify the enemy's schemes? Or whatever else. **How to discern Fear..**