



Empowering People to Change the World

**Fast & Furious: Overcoming Spiritual Opposition,
Part 3**

Steve Holt

The Road Declaration...

Fast & Furious: Overcoming Spiritual Opposition, Part 3

Nehemiah 6

Introduction:

- Nehemiah has a vision from God to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem, and he finds the city in chaos.
- Like everything in our lives, you will have a sword in one hand, and a trowel in the other.
- Last week, Nehemiah is realizing that there is turmoil from within the Jewish nation, and they are ripping each other off financially.
 - Nehemiah is learning that the Jewish people need new walls rebuilt.

They have left Babylon, but Babylon hasn't left them.

- Ex. You remember the first time you got ripped off by a believer? This is not an elective, but a required course, *"Getting Ripped Off by a Fellow Believer, 101."*
- And God allows this, because He is teaching you to not look at the people of the King, but the King of the people.
- This life is really about an "image." Growing into the image of Christ in our lives.
- And part of this is the "Fellowship of His suffering," which is painful, and difficult.
- Nehemiah is realizing that he is rebuilding more than physical walls, but there is a need for revival in the people.

- Have you realized that there are no breaks in the Kingdom of God? It is constant and unending.
- We have to make a commitment: “I will commit myself to the cause of Christ in my family, in my city, and in this world.”

Confronting the Deep State!

Vs. 1

- The Unholy Trinity is at it again! They just won't give up!
- Nehemiah is confronting “the Deep State in Israel.”
 - Look at verses 17-19.
 - Remember last week? The nobles were ripping off the people with usury, probably 30-40% taxes.
 - Sex trafficking and child exploitation.
- The enemy is the one who is intimidated!!
- When you begin to do a great work for God—either in your life, or in your family, or in your city, EXPECT opposition to rise up.
- Opposition always has a gang of people! It's never one person: misery loves company. Satan always has his minions.
- Ex. God wants us to take back our state and bring the Kingdom of God to our government, education, media, and churches!
- Satan will fight us at every turn!
- The more successful you are for God's kingdom, the more opposition you will face.

Vs. 2

- You don't want to meet in the Plain of "Oh No!" If the enemy asks you to meet in the Plain of Ono, you need to say "OH NO!"

Satan's Strategy: Distract you from your purpose.

- They want him to get off focus! Take your eyes off the work and let's talk about some issues.
- Bait is for catching fish, right? All bait has a hook inside! The enemy wants to tempt you with some bait, and he knows what you want.
- As unbelievers, we were deceived, but when a believer turns from the Lord, and goes back to drugs, and sex, the remarkable thing is that we KNOW that we are harming our lives! And we do it anyway!
- Nehemiah knows not to go to the Plain of "OH NO" ...it's not that hard to figure out.

Vs. 3

- Nehemiah doesn't take the bait.
- "I'm not going to stop a great work to talk to you!" It all seems so friendly and judicious.
- But Nehemiah knows what he is called to do, and he is not going to compromise his time and energy.
- Your three most important things you have in your life are Time, Energy, and Money.

Stay focused on God's purpose for your life!

- Satan's Appeal: Does it really matter that you put a standard on the movies and TV that your kids watch? Or that you set a standard on the music and friends they have?

- Does it really matter that you have a devotional time with them?
- Does it really matter that you spend time with your kids?
- Gigi Graham has a plaque over her sink in the kitchen that says, “Divine services performed here daily.”
- But you are building a great wall...the enemy says “Come down.” Don’t come down; don’t lower the standards!

Vs. 4

- Temptations will come back! Four times they come at Nehemiah.

“Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7 (NKJV)

- God allows temptation in our lives to build fortitude in our lives!
To teach us how to fight!

You must learn how to resist the devil...meaning, you must understand his way, and his motives for your life.

- Do you know how to put on the Armor of God?
- Do you know how to lean on others during tough times?
Bloodstained Allies!
- Do you know how to use Scripture to fight?
- Temptations and accusations from the enemy will return and reattack us...learn to fight, learn to resist the enemy.

Vs. 5-8

- Nehemiah won’t even come to the border to talk, so the strategy has now changed...too many believers want to go just to the borders of sin.

Satan's Strategy: Lie about your motives.

- This is an "open letter," an email, a website has been set up...gossip and slander! So many have been slandered through these open emails.
- You don't broadcast people's sin...we go to them privately.
- God's heart is not to embarrass and humiliate, but to restore and revive.
- "You're not doing this for the Lord...you really want to be a king!"
- Such situations lead us to introspect... "Yeah, they're right, I'm trying to get honor for myself..." The flesh loves attention.
 - Questioning Nehemiah's motives: "It's all about yourself."
 - Even Jesus was accused of being a "glutton and drunkard."
 - If you're perfect, they will still crucify you anyway!

Vs. 9-11

Satan's Strategy: Create fear.

- Nehemiah totally recognizes the enemy's devices and plans.
- "Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices." 2 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV)
- You now know the tactics of the enemy today! Don't fear his accusations. He is the Accuser of the Saints!
- Verse 9, look what Nehemiah does: instead of fearing his enemies, he prays for strength!

Vs. 10-11

Satan's Strategy: Isolation from your Bloodstained Allies.

- Who are “they?” That’s the way it always comes. Who are “they?” I have never met “they,” but “they” are always talking.
- Satan wants to isolate us! We all get “peopled out.”
- We just get tired of all the adversaries and all of the battles and we just want to isolate ourselves.
- You realize that God has to be our fortress. Ex. Luther realized, after months in the Wartburg Castle, that he had to get back to the battle, to his people...soon after, he wrote the great hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is our God.”

A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabbath, his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,

should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo, his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours,
thru him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever.

- Only a priest could go into the Temple. Remember Uzziah went into the Temple, and was smitten with leprosy.

Satan is tempting Nehemiah to go into the Temple, to step out of God's will, and His written Word.

Vs. 12

- He perceived it because it transgressed the written Word of God to not enter the Temple.
- God will never transgress His Word...if you are thinking of doing something that transgresses God's Word, you know what to do! You always follow God's Word.
- Be careful of "prophecies" that are not from God...they sound so spiritual, but it is not from God...watch the motives of these guys.

- If the prophecy doesn't edify, encourage, and bring comfort, don't listen to it.

Vs. 13-14

God is giving Nehemiah wisdom! Spiritual perception comes as we obey God.

- Fear, coupled with isolation, can cause us to sin!
 - Ex. "I've been dating this guy, and he is getting a bit friendlier than I'm comfortable with, but I'm afraid of losing him."
 - Ex. "We're doing our taxes, and if we pay all of our taxes, we won't have enough...God can't provide!"
- They are trying to interrupt what you are doing here! Think about them, Lord! You deal with them!
- Constant prayer! Constant surrender! Constant focus!

Vs. 15-16

- I call this the "Nehemiah Effect," and great fear came through the enemy because of the Lord's work.

The Lord's great work pulls the heart out of the enemy!

- Nehemiah is finishing well! He has kept his promise to God.
- I want to finish well: "Marriage is hard."
- I want to finish with my wife: "We did it together."
- I want to finish with my kids: "We did it the right way."
- Finish the course!! Finish what God has called you to do.

Vs. 17-19

- Actually, this is the Deep State in Israel!
- Tobiah is married into the family in Jerusalem, and now we're getting into the in-laws and out-laws.
- There is regular correspondence among the people because of his in-laws.
- So, they report his good deeds. "Nehemiah, why are you being so mean to Tobiah?"
- You can't say that he's a rat, and you have to just let God take care of it.
- The important thing: We finished the course and God is glorified; God you did it, and I got to be a part of your plan...thank you, Lord.

What's God building in your life? What's God building in our church, in our city?

- 1. Stay focused! Time, Energy, and Money give to the focus of God in your life.**
- 2. Stay connected with Bloodstained Allies—be vulnerable and work together.**