

Staying on the Wall
Nehemiah 6:1-16
October 17, 2021

Nehemiah 6:1–2 (NASB95)

1 Now when it was reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, to Geshem the Arab and to the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall, and that no breach remained in it, although at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates, 2 then Sanballat and Geshem sent a message to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together at Chephirim in the plain of Ono.” But they were planning to harm me.

Revelation 12:12b (NASB95)

Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.”

Our enemy wants to distract us from doing what God has called us to do.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NASB95)

16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NASB95)

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;

Nehemiah 6:3–4 (NASB95)

3 So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?” 4 They sent messages to me four times in this manner, and I answered them in the same way.

Nehemiah let his mission from God establish his priorities.

John 4:34 (HCSB)

34 “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work”

1 John 2:17b (ESV)

Whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Nehemiah 6:5–7 (NASB95)

5 Then Sanballat sent his servant to me in the same manner a fifth time with an open letter in his hand. 6 In it was written, “It is reported among the nations, and Gashmu says, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel; therefore you are rebuilding the wall. And you are to be their king, according to these reports. 7 “You have also appointed prophets to proclaim in Jerusalem concerning you, ‘A king is in Judah!’ And now it will be reported to the king according to these reports. So come now, let us take counsel together.”

Our enemy wants to discourage us with accusations that bring fear.

1 John 2:1 (ESV)

1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Nehemiah 6:8–9 (NASB95)

8 Then I sent a message to him saying, “Such things as you are saying have not been done, but you are inventing them in your own mind.” 9 For all of them were trying to frighten us, thinking, “They will become discouraged with the work and it will not be done.” But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

Nehemiah prayed for God’s strength to continue.

Nehemiah 6:10–12 (NASB95)

10 When I entered the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined at home, he said, “Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you, and they are coming to kill you at night.” 11 But I said, “Should a man like me flee? And could one such as I go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.” 12 Then I perceived that surely God had not sent him, but he uttered his prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

Our enemy wants to deceive us so we will disobey the Lord.

2 Corinthians 11:13–14 (NASB95)

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

Here in Neh. 6 is where the enemy appeals to one of the strongest instincts human beings possess:

Self-preservation-save yourself

Look again at Nehemiah’s response; it is revealing:

“Should a man like me flee? And could one such as I go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.”

Nehemiah’s life was controlled by the fear of the Lord.

When the enemy attempts to distract us:

We need to let our mission from God establish our priorities.

When the enemy attempts to discourage us:

We need to pray for God’s strength to continue serving.

When the enemy attempts to deceive us:

We need to let the love of Christ control us.