

Dreaming with God Part 5: Vision Invites Opposition

Nehemiah 2:10, 18b-20

Intro: Nehemiah's Opposition - When Sanballat and Tobiah heard the news of the rebuilding, it disturbed them, and they begin to oppose what Nehemiah was doing.

ANYTIME YOU START TO DO SOMETHING... YOU'RE GOING TO FACE OPPOSITION.

External Oppositions and Distractions such as: Criticism and Mockery, Naysayers and Doubters, Competitive Forces, etc.

Internal Struggles and Distractions such as: Self-Doubt and Insecurity, Fear of Failure, Lack of Focus, Procrastination, Impatience, Sin, Lack of Discipline, Limiting Beliefs, Overcommitment, Perfectionism, etc.

Here are **three ways to overcome opposition**:

1. We Overcome Opposition by Facing It, Not in Fear, but in Faith

Tactic #1 of Opposition: **FEAR/Intimidation**

Sanballat wanted Nehemiah to fall under the fear of intimidation. We can face the intimidations of the enemy when we realize:

- Our enemies are already defeated
- Reject the VOICE of fear by the enemy
- Jesus has given you the victory
- We have everything we need for victory on the inside of us
- God is with us and for us and loves us – trust him
- You are not a victim, but an overcomer
- We walk by faith not by sight
- Worship through the warfare
- We have the Holy Spirit to fill us and empower us

2. We Overcome Opposition by Keeping Focus on the Vision Before Us

Tactic #2 of Opposition: **DISTRACTION**

The enemy doesn't have to destroy you to make you ineffective, he just has to distract you.

We must RECOGNIZE and DISCERN the things that come to distract us and stay focused

- Vision as a unifying force – Nehemiah kept the people focused
- Priorities and Boundaries as guardrails to stay on the road to the vision
- Be aware of what you're feeding on – limit the negativity
- Learn to say NO – not every opportunity is a God opportunity
- Decide what deserves your time
- Use spiritual disciples to orient your heart

3. We Overcome Opposition by Developing 'Vision Resilience'

Tactic #3 of Opposition: **GIVING UP**

"Vision Resilience" is the ability to endure a challenges while staying committed to the vision.

We can face:

- Vision Fatigue – we haven't seen our vision come to pass yet
- Weariness – we get tired, worn out
- Setbacks – things come up that we didn't expect
- Delays – we thought we would be further along
- Detours – sometimes God will take you another way to see the vision fulfilled
- People coming and going – some will support, some won't