

III. FINISH STRONG AND DON'T QUIT IN SPITE OF DANGER

A. Nehemiah's opponents tried to scare him.

"Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was a secret informer; and he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the ^{old} temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you." Nehemiah 6:10

They went so far as to hire a false prophet to issue a "message from the Lord".

B. Nehemiah's response was to focus on his peace.

"11 And I said, "Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!"

12 Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

13 For this reason he was hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me.

14 My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat, according to these their works, and the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid."

Nehemiah 6:11-14

"6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

FINISH STRONG IN 2020!

FINISHING STRONG IN 2020

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INTRODUCTION

A. This year has been a very challenging time filled with a health pandemic, social unrest and political conflict. It has been and continues to be our goal to not just go through this crisis, but to grow through this crisis. As we come to the end of this year, still dealing with many challenges, we must resolve to not just finish, but to finish strong!

B. There are great finishers in the Bible:

1. Jesus was a great finisher.

"So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."

John 19:30

2. Paul was a great finisher.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

II Timothy 4:7

3. Nehemiah was a great finisher (Nehemiah 6:15).

Nehemiah faced opposition from people. What God did through Nehemiah to build the walls of Jerusalem shows how God can help you finish strong.

"So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, ..."

Nehemiah 2:20a

The Problem: The walls of Jerusalem were broken down (Neh.1:3).

The Solution: God used Nehemiah to rebuild the walls (Neh. 6:15).

C. TEXT: Nehemiah 6:1-15

THE KEY: FINISH STRONG AND DON'T QUIT (v.15)

The Christian life is not a sprint, it's a marathon.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”
I Corinthians 15:58

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”
Galatians 6:9

I. FINISH STRONG AND DON'T QUIT IN SPITE OF DISTRACTIONS

A. Nehemiah's opponents tried to sidetrack him.

*“1 Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it (though at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates),
2 that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, “Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono.”
But they thought to do me harm.”*
Nehemiah 6:1-2

They sought to delay the project through discussion by inviting him to a “peace conference” 25 miles northwest of Jerusalem.

B. Nehemiah's response was to focus on his priority.

*“3 So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?”
4 But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner.”*
Nehemiah 6:3-4

Nehemiah said “O, no!” to Ono.

*“33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”*
Matthew 6:33-34

II. FINISH STRONG AND DON'T QUIT IN SPITE OF DEFAMATION

A. Nehemiah's opponents tried to slander him.

“5 Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, with an open letter in his hand.

6 In it was written:

It is reported among the nations, and Geshem says, that you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore, according to these rumors, you are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king.

7 And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying, “There is a king in Judah!” Now these matters will be reported to the king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together.”

Nehemiah 6:5-7

They challenged his motive by saying he was trying to lead a revolution and become King of Judah.

B. Nehemiah's response was to focus on his power.

*“8 Then I sent to him, saying, “No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart.”
9 For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, “Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done.” Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.”*

Nehemiah 6:8-9

“29 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,

31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.”
Isaiah 40:29-31