

HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING OVERCOME BY THE ENEMY'S ATTACKS?

PART 4: SATAN'S TACTIC OF FEAR

Nehemiah 6:1-14

- I. **UNDERSTAND YOUR ENEMIES WANT YOU OUT OF THE WAY, BUT KEEP WORKING:** Nehemiah's enemies tried to deceitfully lure him privately into a trap so they could kill him, but Nehemiah wisely rejects and keeps working (1-4)

- II. **REALIZE SATAN WILL USE FEAR TO PARALYZE AND ENTRAP YOU so that you will quit:** Nehemiah's enemies try outright intimidation and deceitful entrapment (5-15)
 - A. Guard yourself from OUTWARD FEAR THAT ARISES FROM FALSE ACCUSATIONS: Sanballat sends an open letter to Nehemiah, falsely accusing him of planning rebellion against the King but Nehemiah denies it, understands their evil motives, and prayed for strength to keep working (5-9)
 1. **The temptation:** To be self-absorbed fearing what may happen and/or what others think about the accusations (5-7)
 2. **The right response: Do not fear...**how so? (8-9)
 - a) Expose and confront the lie outwardly with the truth (8)
 - b) Understand Satan's goal in fear is to frighten you so that you will become discouraged and quit the work (9a)
 - c) Call upon the Lord for strength to continue the work and work (9b)

 - B. Guard yourself from INWARD FEAR FOR YOUR LIFE: Nehemiah is enticed by a false prophets' prophecy to save his skin, so that he would sin, but he perceived it was not from God and prayed for God to judge those who were trying to frighten him (10-14)
 1. **The temptation:** A fear driven by self-preservation to save your skin at all costs (10)
 2. **The right response:** Do not fear...how so? (11-14)
 - a) Expose the deceit inwardly with the Truth (11)
 - b) Understand Satan's goal in fear is to frighten you so that you will sin, and thus be reproached, so that the work will stop (12-13)
 - c) Call upon and trust the Lord to deal with your enemies (14)