



NEHEMIAH: A PARAGON OF PRAYER

PRAYER

JAN 26, 2020

PRAYING WHEN YOU FACE OPPOSITION

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We can respond to the challenges in life that we face in 3 ways. One way is *I pray & stand against opposition & difficulty*. Read Nehemiah 2:10, Nehemiah 2:19, Nehemiah 4:1-3. Nehemiah faced ridicule & opposition. Read Nehemiah 4:4-5. When you face difficulty, times when you are mocked, insulted or ridiculed, what do you do? What is your first response?

On Sunday, Gerry reminded us, “*when people stand obstinately opposed to clearly discerned work being done for God, their opposition is actually against God Himself... and it is sinful*”? How does this make you feel? Have you encountered this in your life?

Read Matthew 5:43-45a, Acts 4:29-31, Romans 12:16, 18-21. Instead of precatory prayers (prayers to call down God’s judgement on people) we are now to pray for our enemies. We can called to bless those who persecute us and pray for those who oppose us. How easy or difficult is this response for you to do?

Read Ephesians 6:12. We also fight against spiritual opposition. Read Ephesians 6:18. How proactively do you pray against spiritual opposition?

Another way we respond to challenges in our lives is *I pray & resist discouragement & negativity*. Read Nehemiah 4:7-8, 4:10,12. Opposition can also come from “within”, from people we know, or even from within the Church. We shouldn’t traffic in discouragement, instead we should pray and choose not to enter in to discussions or add to them. Read Nehemiah 6:9b. We need prayer to be our first response, we are to ask God to strengthen our resolve. How would you describe your attitude and actions when you face discouragement and negativity? How do you deal with people in your life who are discouraging or negative?

Another way we respond is *I pray and exercise faith-filled activity*. On Sunday, Gerry said, “when the Spirit’s activity meets our intentionality, kingdom breakthrough happens.” Read Nehemiah 4:9, 4:14, 6:15-18. Nehemiah committed to the cause and faithfully worked. Prayer is never a replacement for our full engagement and activity. We pray & act. Are there situations in your life where you have stepped off the gas & have not been as active or alert as you should have been? In what areas of your life is God inviting you to increase your attention & active partnership with the Spirit in His work?