

IV. THE RESPONSE TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A. **Get on your _____!**

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and never become discouraged.

Luke 18:1 (TEV)

CRITICAL FACT: When you find yourself in the midst of spiritual warfare, you have only two options:

_____ or _____.

1. **The types of prayer**

a. _____ prayer

See Nehemiah 1:4 and 2:4

“Hear us, O our God, for we are despised.”
Nehemiah 4:4a (NIV)

See also Philippians 4:6

b. _____ prayer

“Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.” Nehemiah 4:4b-5 (NIV)

See also Romans 12:19 and Ephesians 6:18.

2. **The threat of prayer**

See Nehemiah 4:7-8 and 4:11

But we prayed to God and posted a guard to meet this threat. Nehemiah 4:9 (NIV)

When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to his own work. Nehemiah 4:15 (NIV)

B. **Put on your _____!**



MESSAGE NOTES

April 19, 2009



LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

This week's message:

*Building and Battling: The Struggle of
Spiritual Warfare—Part 4*

(Nehemiah 4:1-23)

Building and Battling: The Struggle of Spiritual Warfare—Part 4

(Nehemiah 4:1-23)

CENTRAL TRUTH OF THIS CHAPTER: Any time that you start to rebuild something that is broken, you will find yourself in the middle of **REAL** and **RECURRING** spiritual warfare.

CRITICAL FACT: The Christian life is not a **PLAYGROUND**; it is a **BATTLEGROUND**.

I. THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Truth: The more **SERIOUS** you are about fixing something that is broken, the more **INTENSE** the opposition will become in its efforts to **STOP** you.

The Progression

- A. Phase 1: The enemy gets stirred up.**
See Nehemiah 2:10
- B. Phase 2: Organized and vocal opposition**
See Nehemiah 2:19
- C. Phase 3: Open warfare that has as its aim the destruction of the work of rebuilding.**
See Nehemiah 4:7, 11

II. THE RANGE OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- A. How does the enemy work?**
 - 1. Through PEOPLE**
See Matthew 16:23
 - 2. Through CIRCUMSTANCES**
See 2 Corinthians 12:7
 - 3. Through your MIND**
See Romans 12:2; Philipians 2:5; 2 Corinthians 10:5

B. What are the enemy's tactics?

- 1. The enemy will belittle your ABILITY.**
"What are these feeble Jews doing?" Nehemiah 4:2
- 2. The enemy will attack your MOTIVES.**
"What is this you are doing," they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?" Nehemiah 2:19
- 3. The enemy will mock your OPTIMISM.**
"Will they restore their wall?" Nehemiah 4:2
- 4. The enemy will ridicule your ENTHUSIASM.**
"Will they offer sacrifices?" Nehemiah 4:2
- 5. The enemy will question your INTELLIGENCE.**
"Will they finish in a day?" Nehemiah 4:2
- 6. The enemy will magnify your PROBLEM.**
"Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?" Nehemiah 4:2
- 7. The enemy will use CRITICISM to DISCOURAGE you.**
"What they are building—if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down their wall of stones." Nehemiah 4:3

III. THE RESULTS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- A. Loss of STRENGTH**
Meanwhile, the people of Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out . . ." Nehemiah 4:10a (NIV)
- B. Loss of VISION**
". . . and there is so much rubble . . ." Nehemiah 4:10b (NIV)
- C. Loss of CONFIDENCE**
". . . that we cannot rebuild the wall." Nehemiah 4:10c (NIV)
- D. Loss of SECURITY**
Also our enemies said, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work." Nehemiah 4:11 (NIV)