

Resistance

¹⁰ Thus in Judah it was said, "The strength of the burden bearers is failing, Yet there is much rubbish; And we ourselves are unable To rebuild the wall." ¹¹ Our enemies said, "They will not know or see until we come among them, kill them and put a stop to the work."

Nehemiah 4:10-11 (NASB)

Observation

Opposition will test our commitment, but there are several different kinds of resistance we will find in our lives. Resistance will challenge our commitment to the vision God has placed in our hearts and can often times lead to discouragement. God wants us to understand that we do not need to be afraid; we just need to stay committed.

Nehemiah and the Jewish people experienced resistance in two ways in this passage. The first was resistance from within. They began to say to each other that the task was too great and the work too much for them to complete. The first thing we must do is defeat discouragement inside of ourselves. There will be moments along this journey where the task seems too great and the cost too much. Know that God is with you and He will see you through to the finish if you stay committed.

The second is resistance from the outside. Many times this can come from people who simply have nothing encouraging to say. Often, when you begin to make sacrifices for God, the people around you will not understand. They will ask why you are so committed to this. Don't allow outside voices to discourage your faith and the things God is doing in you and through you. Tell yourself, as Nehemiah told the people, "Do not be afraid and remember the Lord." He will strengthen your commitment today.

Application

Are you experiencing resistance today? Take time to identify where it is coming from. Is the resistance that you are experiencing coming from inside or outside? After you identify it, bring it to God in prayer and let Him lead you. Share this with your prayer partner from Day 12, or your Bible study or prayer group. God wants to strengthen your commitment today.