



RISE UP AND BUILD

A STUDY IN NEHEMIAH

Working with the God Who Works

Nehemiah 4:15-23

**God's sovereign control frees us from
fear and motivates our effort.**



Godly Response to Resistance

- **Nehemiah did not retaliate or threaten**
- **Jesus is a greater Nehemiah!**

when he [Jesus] was insulted, he did not insult in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten but entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:23, CSB



Godly Response to Resistance

- Faith in God (vs. 4 “Hear, O our God...”)
- Perseverance in the work (vs. 6 “So we built the wall...”)



Godly Response to Resistance

They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw it into confusion. So we prayed to our God [belief!] and stationed a guard because of them day and night [work!]. Nehemiah 4:8–9, CSB



Godly Response to Resistance

- **And our enemies said, “They won’t realize it until we’re among them and can kill them and stop the work.” Nehemiah 4:11, CSB**
- **After I made an inspection, I stood up and said...
“Remember the great and awe-inspiring Lord [belief!], and fight for your countrymen, your sons and daughters, your wives and homes. [work!]”
Nehemiah 4:11, 14, CSB**



Godly Response to Resistance

When our enemies heard that we knew their scheme and that God had frustrated it [belief!], every one of us returned to his own work on the wall [work].

Nehemiah 4:15, CSB



Godly Response to Resistance

Then I said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people: “The work is enormous and spread out, and we are separated far from one another along the wall. Wherever you hear the trumpet sound, rally to us there. [work] Our God will fight for us! [belief]”
Nehemiah 4:19–20, CSB



Jesus Responds to Resistance

“I am the bread of life,” Jesus told them. “No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again. But as I told you, you’ve seen me, and yet you do not believe. Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never cast out. John 6:35–37, CSB



Jesus Responds to Resistance

Therefore the Jews started complaining about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They were saying, “Isn’t this Jesus the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” Jesus answered them, “Stop complaining among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day. John 6:41-44



Jesus Responds to Resistance

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” At that, the Jews argued among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. John 6:51–53, CSB



Jesus Responds to Resistance

Therefore, when many of his disciples heard this, they said, “This teaching is hard. Who can accept it?” Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were complaining about this, asked them, “Does this offend you? The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh doesn’t help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. John 60-61, 63, CSB



Jesus Responds to Resistance

- **Sovereign**
 - **God's authority is unlimited**
 - **God has absolute control over everything**
 - **God always does what pleases Him (Psalm 115:3)**
 - **God's power is ultimate**



God's Sovereignty Calms Fear and Motivates Effort

Therefore, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:12–13, CSB



Working with the God Who Works

- **What is your greatest fear? Do you believe God is greater?**
- **What makes laziness so tempting? How does worship confront indifference and apathy?**
- **How is God at work in your heart *right now*?**
- **How is the Spirit of God directing you to respond to God's sovereignty?**

