

OVERCOMING ENEMIES TO GLORIFY GOD

Nehemiah 6:1-16, page 387

- I. A trap: Ignore treacherous distractions and keep working (6:1-4).
 - A. Nehemiah's enemies offered to meet with him when they heard of the wall's progress (1-2a).
 - B. Nehemiah knew they would harm him and he refused (2b-4).
 - Satan is powerless if we obediently serve God (James 4:7).
- II. Slander: Deny false accusations/rumors and keep working (6:5-9).
 - A. Nehemiah's enemies accused him of insurrection (5-7).
 - B. Nehemiah denied the charge and prayed for God to strengthen him to just keep working (8-9).
 - Refute slander by living with integrity (1 Peter 2:12; 3:16).
- III. Conspiracy theory: Refuse to fear and keep working (6:10-14).
 - A. Nehemiah's enemies hired a false prophet to frighten him into meeting in the Holy Place where only priests go (10).
 - B. Nehemiah discerned their attempt to tempt him to sin (11-13).
 - C. Nehemiah prayed for God to defeat his enemies (14).
 - Do not be frightened into sinful compromise (1 Samuel 13).

- IV. Celebrate spiritual victory by giving God the glory (6:15-16).
- A. Nehemiah and the people completed the wall in 52 days (15).
 - B. All the enemies were afraid and realized it was only accomplished by the power of God (16).
 - Our real goal in serving God is to glorify God (1 Peter 4:11).