

**“The Power Of Intercession”
(Nehemiah 6:1-9a)**

Nehemiah 6:1-3 New Living Translation (NLT)

Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained—though we had not yet set up the doors in the gates.² So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono.

But I realized they were plotting to harm me,³ so I replied by sending this message to them: “I am engaged in a great work, so I can’t come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?”

INTRODUCTION:

- There are powerful lessons for Spiritual Warfare in the book of Nehemiah for us to study and put into practice.
- The schemes of the enemy against him mirror those the enemy of our souls’ attempt to use against us.
- Nehemiah’s project was to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and the city. The wall was finished in record time (52 days).

Note:

The enemy will attempt to use his schemes against us to stop us from building – a life, a marriage, a ministry, a department, a church, a legacy. If he fails to stop you from doing all the work of building, he will attempt to use one of his favorite weapons against us – DISTRACTION!

TODAY’S SERMON: The Power Of Intercession

I. THE MOST VULNERABLE POINT OF ENTRY:

- One condition of the city in ruins was described in (1:3b): ***the gates were burned with fire***
- “gates and doors” have to do with **ACCESS AND AUTHORITY**
 - **Doors:** control who goes in or out – who has ACCESS
 - Opening a door permits access; shutting one prevents it
 - **Gates:** Have to do with AUTHORITY
 - The gates of a city was where JUDICIAL TRANSACTIONS of city leaders were made
 - In Matthew 16:18 we have the first use of the work **ekklesia** with the word **gates:**

Matthew 16:18 New King James Version (NKJV)

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18 The Passion Translation (TPT)

I give you the name Peter, a stone. And this truth of who I am will be the bedrock foundation on which I will build my church—my legislative assembly, and the power of death will not be able to overpower it!

NOTE:

The ekklesia (church) is a called-out, legislative assembly gathered to defend and protect a city and enact legislation. It was called together for political and governmental function. Christian assemblies identified themselves with the Hebrew word *Quahal* which is a representation of God's Royal Power in the world.

The way the church enacts legislation and wages military engagements is through INTERCESSION!

II. REALIZE THE ENEMY SCHEME: TO STOP INTERCESSION!

- If he cannot stop you from doing all other work in your life;
- If he cannot stop you from building your life, marriage, ministry, legacy
- HE WILL ATTEMPT TO STOP YOU FROM PRAYING!
- HIS TOOL? **WORLDLY COMPROMISE**
- The enemy doesn't fear our DEFENSIVE weapons, HE FEARS OUR OFFENSIVE ONES!
- POWER IS LEGISLATED IN THE GATES THROUGH INTERCESSION, NOT ON THE WALLS!

NOTE:

The enemy would love to see you busy doing all sorts of things; even good things, if he can succeed in stopping YOUR PRAYER LIFE!

Sanballat means: "enemy in secret"

Geshem means: "rain"

The "secret scheme" of the enemy is to prevent you from praying by meeting him in ONO, and deceive you to go there through PROSPERITY! The most lethal form of attack on the church is where the enemy appears as a "minister of light" to try to persuade us to stop praying!

2 Corinthians 11:14 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁴ But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an *angel of light*.

“Ono” = meaning derived from 2 root words:

- Trouble or emptiness
- Wealth or ease

NOTE:

If the enemy cannot stop you by a negative, full frontal attack to defeat you through FAILURE, he’ll try to make you compromise and fail using SUCCESS!

III. THE BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE: (vv5-8)

- The enemy came with the same request **FIVE TIMES:**
 - Don’t assume that because something is frequently repeated that it might be from God!
 - This is not FAITH, it’s actually more like SUPERSTITION!
 - Stick with God’s original mandate and **STAY ON THE WALL!**
- The enemy came with an **UNSEALED LETTER:**
 - The MIND GAME from the enemy was to make Nehemiah worry about, “who else has read this letter”?
 - What are other people saying about me?
 - What are other people thinking about me?
 - Accusation of “self-promotion” (how many friends/unfriends do you have?)
 - Plague of “What – if” scenarios (v8)
 - **Don’t allow the enemy to make HIS imaginations, YOUR imaginations!**

2 Corinthians 10:5 The Passion Translation (TPT)

We can demolish every deceptive fantasy that opposes God and break through every arrogant attitude that is raised up in defiance of the true knowledge of God. We capture, like prisoners of war, every thought and insist that it bow in obedience to the Anointed One.

IV. FALSE BRETHREN: (vv10-14)

- Shemaiah was a “friend” of Nehemiah; a prophet/priest
- His message: “There is a plot to kill you...” Let’s go to the Sanctuary and hide”.
- The enemy loves to cloak his deadliest schemes in spiritual clothing!
- “Shemaiah” means, “has heard from the Lord”
- He was confined to his home – possibly due to some *ceremonial uncleanness*

NOTE:

Isn’t it interesting that the ones who are stuck at home and not praying, not serving and doing anything for the Lord always think they have authority to

Speak into your life? TALK TO SOMEONE WITH A PRAYER LIFE TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU SHOULD DO!

Ground Rules For Discernment:

- 1. The FREQUENCY of a false word will NEVER make it true.**
- 2. The NUMBER of false words will NEVER make them true.**
- 3. The FAMILIARITY of the one speaking for God to you DOESN'T MEAN WHAT HE'S SAYING IS FROM GOD! TEST EVERY SPIRIT...**

1 John 4:1 The Passion Translation (TPT)

Delightfully loved friends, don't trust every spirit, but carefully examine *what they say* to determine if they are of God, because many false prophets have mingled into the world.

V. IT'S TIME FOR GOD'S NATION TO RISE UP IN INTERCESSION!

1 Peter 2:9 New International Version (NIV)

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Luke 22:29 New International Version (NIV)

²⁹ And I **confer** on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me,

- To CONFER means to leave something to another by will and through covenant
- We need to establish HIS COVENANT WILL (aka: Kingdom) on earth as it is in heaven through INTERCESSION and Spirit-directed labor

NEXT STEPS: (v 9b) "...Decide to CONTINUE with GREATER DETERMINATION!

DON'T LET THE ENEMY SLOW YOU DOWN, USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEED IT UP!

CLOSE:

PRAYER FOR ALL DEALING WITH "MIND GAMES" STRUGGLING WITH ESTABLISHING A PRAYER LIFE.