

WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP

Building a Better Future
Rick Warren

"The people quickly rebuilt the first half of the wall around Jerusalem until it reached HALF ITS HEIGHT, because they worked hard with all their heart. BUT THEN (our enemies) heard how Jerusalem's walls were being repaired and all the gaps were being closed. They became very angry and plotted to attack Jerusalem together and create some confusion to stop the progress. So we prayed to God for protection and posted 24 hour guards to protect the workers. But then people began to complain. They said, 'We're tired and worn out! Besides that there's so much rubble and trash to be removed. We now realize that we cannot finish this wall!' Also our enemies are now threatening us. They're saying, 'Before you know it or even see us, we'll be among you to kill you and end your work!' Then, those who lived closest to our enemies kept reporting—over ten times—that our enemies kept saying, 'We're going to attack you from every direction!'" Nehemiah 4:6-12

4 CAUSES OF DISCOURAGEMENT

1. _____
"Then the people of Judah began to complain that the workers were becoming tired." Nehemiah 4:10 (NLT)

*"Never forget how the Amalekites . . . attacked you when you were exhausted and weary, and they struck down those who began to lag behind."
Deuteronomy 25:17-18 (NLT)*

2. _____
*"Besides that, there was so much rubble and trash to be removed."
Nehemiah 4:10*

3. _____
"We now realize that we CANNOT finish this wall!" Nehemiah 4:10 (NAB)
"We'll NEVER be able to finish it!" Nehemiah 4:10

4. _____
*"Also our enemies are now threatening us. They're saying, 'Before you know it or even see us, we'll be among you to kill you and end your work!'"
Nehemiah 4:11*

"Then, those who lived closest to our enemies kept reporting—over ten times—that our enemies kept saying, 'We're going to attack you from every direction!'" Nehemiah 4:12

HOW CAN I DEFEAT DISCOURAGEMENT?

1. _____
*"You made my body Lord—now give me sense to heed your laws."
Psalm 119:73 (TLB)*

*"It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to his loved ones."
Psalm 127:2 (NLT)*

2. _____
"So I stationed armed guards at the most vulnerable points of the wall and at the most exposed places I assigned people by families to protect each other with their swords, spears, and bows." Nehemiah 4:13 (The Message)

"Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting together with other believers, but we must not do that! Instead, we should keep on encouraging each other." Hebrews 10:25 (CEV)

3. _____
"Aware of their anxiety, I stood up and said to the nobles, officials, and the rest of the people, 'DO NOT BE AFRAID of the enemy! REMEMBER THE LORD who is great and awe-inspiring!'" Nehemiah 4:14 (NJB)

*"I'm completely discouraged, so revive me with your Word."
Psalm 119:25 (NLT)*

4. _____
(I also told them) "You must FIGHT for your brothers, and your sons, and your daughters, and your wives and homes!" Nehemiah 4:14

"When I am ready to give up, HE knows what I should do." Psalm 142:3 (GNT)

*"God gives power to those who are tired and worn out, and he offers strength to the weak . . . Those who wait on the LORD will find new strength."
Isaiah 40:29, 31 (NLT)*

Next Steps

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