

## Satan's Tool: Discouragement

**Webster Dictionary~ Discourage:** to separate from courage, to take courage out of, to become downhearted.

Who does it affect? **Everyone.**  
Who is behind it? **Satan.**

**Psalm 31:24** <sup>Be</sup> of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.

**Joshua 10:25** Then Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

### Yet with verses like these why do we get discouraged?

Sometimes it just feels like all the work necessary or all the work that has already been done just does not help the situation. Why put so much effort into something just to walk away discouraged.

### Nehemiah 4:1-15

Background: Nehemiah chapters 1&2 the walls at Jerusalem had been burnt and brought to rubble by the request of Rehum and Shimshai as recorded in Ezra chap four. Chapter 3, Nehemiah had set each family in front of their own house to begin to rebuild the wall.

### First cause of Discouragement- Mockery (Neh. 4:1-3)

**Verbal Abuse.** The tongue is as powerful and at times more powerful than the sword.  
**James 3:5-8** <sup>Even</sup> so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. <sup>8</sup> But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

**In Acts 2:13** the people **mocked** the 11 Apostles at Pentecost and said they were drunk. As Paul preached at Mars Hill the people said, "what will this **babbler** say."

**Read Ezra 4:1-5~** The Samaritans hired counselors to **frustrate** their purpose. Why does Satan desire to frustrate and discourage you?

**Because it works....**

### First cure for Discouragement- Pray & Work (Neh. 4:4-6)

Prayer is never a substitute for work and work is never a substitute for prayer.

**James 2:15-17** "If a brother is naked and destitute....."

**Saint Augustine** ~ Pray as though everything dependent on God but work as though everything depended on you.

### Second cause of Discouragement- Conspiracy (Neh. 4:5-7)

Now everything and everybody seems as though they are coming against you, Government, School, Society, Spouse, In-laws, friends.

**Look close at verse 7 ~ 1. Sanballat** (Samaritans) from North. **2. Tobiah** (Arabians) from South. **3. Ammonites** from East. **4. Ashodites** from West.

**1 Peter 5:8** <sup>Be</sup> sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Satan will use anything or anybody he can to discourage a church or an individual. He is nondiscriminatory in that area. Christ desires to build up that which Satan desires to tear down.

### Second cure for Discouragement- Pray & Work (Neh. 4:9)

Nevertheless ~ They prayed and worked.

**2 Timothy 2:19a** Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure.

### Third cause of Discouragement- Me (Neh. 4:10-12)

The wall was half done when Satan brings his final and toughest blow that would come from the inside out. Judah looked around and said "there is too much rubbish (garbage) in our lives. The enemy said the will come in through that garbage and we will not know until it is too late. **We are doomed!**

### Read Isaiah 6:1-8

### Third cure for Discouragement- Remember (Neh. 4:13-14a)

**Nehemiah said:** "Do not be afraid of them" Remember the Lord, great and awesome.

**Remember what God has done for you.**  
**Remember what He has brought you through.**  
**Remember His promises to you.**

### Forth cure for Discouragement- Fight (Neh. 4:14b-15)

Fight **for** your brothers and your sisters, (*not with*) Fight **for** your wives, and your children, Fight **for** your homes. (*Your families*)

**Fight and work hard at getting the rubbish out of your own life!**  
**Fight hard to bring unity to your home and your church!**  
**Fight hard to Encourage and not discourage those around you!**

**Close: Nehemiah 4:15** ~ And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, **and that God had brought their plot to nothing**, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work