

HOW CHANGE HAPPENS

“Enemies of Change”

Change ALWAYS encounters opposition.

¹ Sanballat was **very angry** when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a **rage** and **mocked** the Jews, ² saying **in front of his friends and the Samaritan army officers**, “What does this bunch of **poor, feeble** Jews think they’re doing? Do they think they can build the wall **in a single day** by just offering a few sacrifices? Do they **actually think** they can make something of stones from a rubbish heap—and charred ones at that?” ³ Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, “That stone wall would collapse if **even a fox** walked along the top of it!”
Nehemiah 4:1-3 (NLT)

ANGER - PUBLIC RIDICULE - MOCKERY - SARCASM - LAUGHTER

⁴ Then I prayed, “**Hear us, our God**, for we are being mocked. May their scoffing fall back on their own heads, and may they themselves become captives in a foreign land!” ⁵ Do not ignore their guilt. Do not blot out their sins, for they have provoked you to anger here in front of the builders.” **Nehemiah 4:4-5 (NLT)**

**HEART BURN
KNEES BENT
INSIDE OUT**

⁶ At last the wall was completed to **half its height** around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm.
Nehemiah 4:6 (NLT)

⁷ But when **Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites** heard that the work was going ahead and that the gaps in the wall of Jerusalem were being repaired, they were **furious**. ⁸ They all **made plans to come and fight against** Jerusalem and throw us into confusion. **Nehemiah 4:7-8 (NLT)**

⁹ But we **prayed to our God** and **guarded the city day and night** to protect ourselves. **Nehemiah 4:9 (NLT)**

There is always GOD’S PART and OUR PART

¹⁰ Then the people of Judah began to complain, “The **workers are getting tired**, and there is **so much rubble** to be moved. We **will never** be able to build the wall by ourselves.” **Nehemiah 4:10 (NLT)**

¹¹ Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, “Before they know what’s happening, we will **swoop down on them and kill them and end their work.**” ¹² The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, “They will come from all directions and attack us!” **Nehemiah 4:11-12 (NLT)**

¹³ So I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard **by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows.**

¹⁴ Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, “**Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!**”
Nehemiah 4:13-14 (NLT)

¹⁵ When **our enemies heard** that we knew of their plans and that God had frustrated them, we all **returned to our work** on the wall. ¹⁶ But from then on, **only half my men worked** while the **other half stood guard with spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail.** The leaders stationed themselves behind the people of Judah ¹⁷ who were building the wall. The laborers carried on their work **with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon.** ¹⁸ All the builders had a sword belted to their side. The trumpeter stayed with me to sound the alarm.
Nehemiah 4:15-18 (NLT)

¹⁹ Then I explained to the nobles and officials and all the people, “The work is very spread out, and we are **widely separated from each other** along the wall. ²⁰ When you hear

*the blast of the trumpet, **rush to wherever it is sounding.***
Then our God will fight for us!
Nehemiah 4:19-20 (NLT)

THE TRUEST ENEMY OF CHANGE IS ISOLATION