

Know Your Opponent

Return-Restore-Renew—Part 6 of Nehemiah

“Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against... the spiritual forces of evil...” (Ephesians 6:12). Therefore, God commands us to put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:13-18), stand firm in unity (1 Corinthians 15:58), and be aware of Satan’s tactics (2 Corinthians 2:11). These include:

- a. Distract and Entrap (Nehemiah 6:1-4).
 - i. Satan: “Wait! What about...?”
 - ii. Response: “I am carrying out a great project” (that God has led me to do). “Why should this work stop?”
- b. Demoralize and Intimidate (Nehemiah 6:5-9).
 - i. Satan: “Bad things will happen if you...”
 - ii. Response: ““You are making it up...” Satan does not know the future and he is not in control, God is. Therefore, “I prayed ‘Now strengthen my hands.’”
- c. Deconstruct and question your calling (Neh. 6:10-14).
 - i. Satan: “Did God really say...?”
 - ii. Response: Would God want me to run away or disobey His Word? “I realized that God had not sent them.”

Notes for the week of February 11, 2018



Ice Breakers

- (1) Where are your “roots?” Are they where you currently live or somewhere else?
- (2) What factors have caused your extended family to scatter from the place where you were born?

Digging Deeper

- (3) Read Nehemiah 6:1-4. How did Nehemiah know that the proposed meeting in Ono was intended to be a distraction and a trap?
- (4) Read Nehemiah 6:5-9. What is the modern equivalent of an unsealed letter? Why would its accusations have been frightening to those who read it?
- (5) Read Nehemiah 6:10-14. How did Nehemiah know that the message of the “prophet” Shemaiah was not from God?

Living Out

- (6) Can you think of a time when Satan’s forces tried to prevent you from obeying God by distracting you, demoralizing you, or deconstructing your sense of God’s calling?
- (7) Are you experiencing any of these tactics presently? Practice standing firm in unity as a group by praying for each other. Then read Ephesians 6:10-18 and remind everyone to put on the armor of God daily.