



Life Church Smyrna
Sunday, August 19, 2018 | 10:30am
Pastor Shell Osbon

Hebrews 10:32-36 ³²“Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. ³³Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. ³⁴You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever. ³⁵So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! ³⁶Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that He has promised.” (NLT)

1. Stand Your Ground

Nehemiah 2:19 “When Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem the Arab heard of our plan, they scoffed contemptuously. ‘What are you doing? Are you rebelling against the king?’ they asked.” (NLT)

Nehemiah 2:20 “I replied, ‘The God of heaven will help us succeed. We, his servants, will start rebuilding this wall. But you have no share, legal right, or historic claim in Jerusalem.’” (NLT)

Nehemiah 4:1-3 ¹“Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, ²saying 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?’ ³Tobiah the Ammonite, who was standing beside him, remarked, ‘That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!’” (NLT)

1 John 4:4 “You belong to God and you have defeated these enemies. God’s Spirit is in you and is more powerful than the one that is in the world.” (CEV)

2. Don’t Back Down

Nehemiah 4:6-9 ⁶“At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm. ⁷But 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. ⁸They all made plans to come and fight

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against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion. ⁹But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.” (NLT)

Nehemiah 4:10 “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.’” (NLT)

Nehemiah 4:14 “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!’” (NLT)

Nehemiah 4:15 “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.” (NLT)

Nehemiah 6:9 “They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work. So I continued the work with even greater determination.” (NLT)

3. God Will Turn It Around

Nehemiah 6:15-16 ¹⁵“So on October 2 the wall was finished - just fifty-two days after we had begun. ¹⁶When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.” (NLT)

Genesis 50:20 “....as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good...” (NKJV)

Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (NKJV)

The big idea: You can’t persevere without God’s help!



Loving God! Loving People! Loving Life!