



# ENGAGING THE ENEMY

Nehemiah's  
Warfare Strategy



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## Nothing New with Demons

Baal was a god-spirit that sought to control, dominate and take ownership of people or in general, to enslave people. Baal was looked upon as the provider of life for people and the people looked to Baal to provide their basic life needs. They believed they were completely dependent upon this spirit. The chief characteristics of Baal worship were sexual perversion and depravity, human sacrifice, especially of children and general idolatry.

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## Nothing New with Demons

Young children were sacrificed to placate the gods of Baal and were often buried at the foundation of buildings at the time of construction, after they were burned alive. Is this much different than the saline abortion technique that BURNS soft tissue, attacks tissue in the digestive track, causes seizures and hemorrhaging of the brain and other organs?

*from [pastordonnawise.com](http://pastordonnawise.com) Blog post*

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## We Must How The Enemy Goes to War

<sup>NKJV</sup> **2 Corinthians 2:11** for we are not ignorant of his devices. (*devices → noema = “mind games”*)

<sup>NLT</sup> **Ephesians 6:11** Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. (*strategies = methodia = “cunning trickery”*)

<sup>NIV</sup> **1 Peter 5:8** Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (*prowls=peripatei= to make due use of opportunities*)



# ENGAGING THE ENEMY

## Strategy #1 Know Who Is In Charge: **YOU!**

**THE DEVIL HAS NO AUTHORITY WHERE GOD SENDS YOU**

**Nehemiah 2:19–20 (NLT) — 19** But 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. **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.***”

**Nehemiah’s Strategy:**

***Understood spiritual authority***

# ENGAGING THE ENEMY

## Strategy #1

### Know Who Is In Charge: **YOU!**

#### **THE DEVIL HAS NO AUTHORITY WHERE GOD SENDS YOU**

- **Mark 6:7 (NLT)** — And he called his twelve disciples together and began sending them out two by two, giving them authority to cast out evil spirits.
- **Matthew 10:1 (NLT)** — Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness.
- **Mark 16:15,17 (NLT)** — 15 And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone...17 They will cast out demons in my name

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## Strategy #1 Know Who Is In Charge: **YOU!**

**THE DEVIL HAS NO AUTHORITY WHERE GOD SENDS YOU**

**Joshua 1:3 (NLT) — 3** I promise you what I promised Moses:  
‘Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you—**5** No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you...**6** “Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them... **9** This is my command—***be strong and courageous!*** *Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*”



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## Strategy #2 Know Your *True* Enemy

1. **Sanballat the Horonite—governor of Samaria-RELIGION**
  1. Sanballat = “Secret Hatred” —Represents the religious system
  2. Mixed race of Israelites and Assyrians
  3. Believed only in 1<sup>st</sup> 5 books and rejected the rest
  4. Religious in nature and oppose those who want to build outside of their understanding of the Scripture
  5. Represents religious actions with no power
2. **Tobiah the Ammonite – governor of Ammon- POLITICAL**
  1. Represents the world system—
  2. Always has a hidden agenda and manipulates to fit the agenda
  3. Always creates alliances
  4. Wants to stop what God is doing

# ENGAGING THE ENEMY

## Tag Team Spirits: *Religion & Political*

**Matthew 22:15-16** <sup>15</sup> Then the **Pharisees** met together to plot how to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. <sup>16</sup> They sent some of their disciples, along with the **supporters of Herod**, to meet with him.

**Mark 3:6** At once the **Pharisees** went away and met with the supporters of **Herod** to plot how to kill Jesus.

**Mark 8:15** And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the **Pharisees**, and *of the leaven of **Herod***.

**Mark 12:13** Later the leaders sent some **Pharisees** and supporters of **Herod** to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested.

# ENGAGING THE ENEMY

## Strategy #3

### Know the Enemy's Tactics

#### Mockery & Ridicule

<sup>ESV</sup> **Nehemiah 4:1-3** Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered (mockery) at the Jews. <sup>2</sup> And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" <sup>3</sup> Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building- if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!"

**Nehemiah's Strategy: Prayer**

**Nehemiah 4:4 Then I prayed...**



# ENGAGING THE ENEMY

## Strategy #3

### Know the Enemy's Tactics

#### Confusion

**Nehemiah 4:7-8** <sup>7</sup> But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. <sup>8</sup> And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it.

#### Nehemiah's Strategy: Prayer

**Nehemiah 4:9** <sup>9</sup> *And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.*

# ENGAGING THE ENEMY

## Strategy #3

### Know the Enemy's Tactics

#### Threats of Fear

**Nehemiah 4:10-11** <sup>10</sup> In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." <sup>11</sup> And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work."

#### Nehemiah's Strategy: Remember the Promise & the Cause

*Nehemiah 4:14* <sup>14</sup> And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

# ENGAGING THE ENEMY

## Strategy #3

### Know the Enemy's Tactics

#### Distraction

<sup>ESV</sup> **Nehemiah 6:1** Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it ...<sup>2</sup> Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm.

**Nehemiah's Strategy: Don't Stop What You are Doing to Get Into A Conversation with the Devil!**

**Nehemiah 6:3** <sup>3</sup> *And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"*



# ENGAGING THE ENEMY

## Strategy #3

### Know the Enemy's Tactics

#### Slander & False Accusation

**Nehemiah 6:5-6** <sup>5</sup> In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. <sup>6</sup> In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Geshem also says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall. And according to these reports you wish to become their king.

#### Nehemiah's Strategy: Don't Allow Intimidation

*Nehemiah 6:8-9* <sup>8</sup> Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind." <sup>9</sup> For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

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## Strategy #3

### Know the Enemy's Tactics

#### False Prophecy

**Nehemiah 6:10** <sup>10</sup> Now when I went into the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home, he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple. Let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you. They are coming to kill you by night."

#### Nehemiah's Strategy: Remember God's Call

*Nehemiah 6:11* <sup>11</sup> But I said, "Should such a man as I run away? And what man such as I could go into the temple and live? I will not go in."

# ENGAGING THE ENEMY

## Don't Self Sabotage Your Life

*Don't be your own worst enemy*

- **Ephesians 4:27 (TPT)** —Don't give the slanderous accuser, the Devil, an opportunity to manipulate you!
- **1 Peter 5:8 (TPT)** —Be well balanced and always alert, because your enemy, the devil, roams around incessantly, like a roaring lion looking for its prey to devour.
- **Jude 20 (TPT)** — But you, my delightfully loved friends, constantly and progressively build yourselves up on the foundation of your most holy faith by praying every moment in the Spirit.



# ENGAGING THE ENEMY

## Fight the Good Fight of Faith

### 1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith

1. We've already been given the victory.
  - a. **The Battle is yours to lose. It's already been won**
2. It's the little things we do on a daily, consistent basis that determines the outcome. If the battle is lost, it is first lost in the mind.
  - a. **The Mind is the Battlefield...protect it (Prov. 4:23)**
3. Know who you are; know your purpose; hold fast to what you have been given.
  - a. **Hold Onto the Victory!**