

TURNING SETBACKS INTO COMEBACKS
The World's Greatest Comeback Stories

WHEN COMING BACK MEANS STARTING OVER

Nehemiah 4:1-20

REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM/RESTORING THE NATION OF ISRAEL

Nehemiah 4:4-9 (NIV) *"Hear us, O our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. 5 Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders."*

6 So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart. 7 But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the men of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. 8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. 9 But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

FOUR REASONS FOR DISCOURAGEMENT:

Nehemiah 4:10a (NLT) *Then the people of Judah began to complain...*

◆ **FATIGUE:** Our comeback is more _____ than expected.

Nehemiah 4:10b (NLT) *"The workers are getting tired."*

◆ **FRUSTRATION:** Our comeback is more _____ than expected.

Nehemiah 4:10c (NLT) *"...and there is so much rubble to be removed."*

◆ **FAILURE:** Our comeback is more _____ than expected.

Nehemiah 4:10d (NLT) *"We'll never be able to build the wall by ourselves."*

◆ **FEAR:** Our comeback has more _____ than expected.

Nehemiah 4:11 (NLT) *Our enemies were saying, "Before they know what's happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work."*

1. Let's _____ our EFFORTS.

Nehemiah 4:13 (NLT) *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.*

2. Let's _____ our FOCUS.

Nehemiah 4:14a (NLT) *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!"*

3. Let's _____ our OPPOSITION.

Nehemiah 4:14b (NLT) *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!...Fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!"*

4. Let's _____ our ENERGIES.

Nehemiah 4:15 (NLT) *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.*

LET'S REMEMBER TO RALLY: Nehemiah 4:19-20 *So I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "The work is extensive and spread out, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall. 20 Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there. Our God will fight for us!"*

In what area of life am I starting over?

How will I meet the challenges and discouragement?