

		<b>sermon notes</b>
	<p>August 16, 2015          Pastor John Speight          A Courageous Spirit</p> <p>LISTEN, GET NOTES + SHARE AT <a href="http://CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/MEDIA">CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/MEDIA</a></p>	

Holy Ambition is  
 living out God's dream for your life  
 in full trust and obedience.

*The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.* 2 Chronicles 16:9 (NLT)

Note: Living your life for the Lord and championing God's agenda does not mean that your life will be smooth sailing.  
 Life usually gets harder before it gets better!

**Usually** \_\_\_\_\_ **occurs first.**

Examples: Moses, Elijah, Jesus

**Timeless Truism:**  
 Our greatest personal victories are almost always  
 followed by periods of intense opposition.

We must anticipate opposition.

*Everyone who enters an athletic contest goes into strict training. They do it to win a temporary crown, but we do it to win one that will be permanent. <sup>26</sup> ... So I box—but not as if I were just shadow boxing.* 1 Corinthians 9:25-26 (GW)

First Punch: \_\_\_\_\_

*Sanballat was very angry when he learned that we were rebuilding the wall. He flew into a rage and mocked the Jews, <sup>2</sup> 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?"* Nehemiah 4:1-2 (NLT)

*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 4:3 (NLT)

Voices dripping with sarcasm, ridicule and criticism land the first punch when you are living with Holy Ambition.

Second Punch: \_\_\_\_\_

*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 furios.<sup>8</sup> They all made plans to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw us into confusion.*

Nehemiah 4:7-8 (NLT)

How did Nehemiah respond to the threat?

*But we prayed to our God and guarded the city day and night to protect ourselves.*

Nehemiah 4:9 (NLT)

Then fatigue set in.

*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."*

<sup>11</sup> *Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, "Before they know what's happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work."*

<sup>12</sup> *The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, "They will come from all directions and attack us!"*

Nehemiah 4:10-12 (NLT)

### Three Causes of Discouragement

- \_\_\_\_\_  
*The workers are getting tired...* Nehemiah 4:10b
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*...and there is so much rubble to be moved.* Nehemiah 4:10c
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves.* Nehemiah 4:10d

### How to Fight Back

- Be \_\_\_\_\_ -- Do \_\_\_\_\_  
*Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.* Nehemiah 4:13 (NIV)
- Remember \_\_\_\_\_  
*After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."*  
Nehemiah 4:14 (NIV)