New Life Fellowship Church
Loving God. Loving People. Making Disciples.

Sunday Sermon Discussion Outline
Pastor Philip Thomas, November 8, 2026
Nehemiah 4:1-23 – Dealing with Setbacks (Part 1)

What would we do if we were working according to the Lord's will and experiencing his favor, only to then face external and internal setbacks in completing the work? How should we deal with setbacks in our lives that foster fear, fatigue, and frustration?

To deal with setbacks…

- We continue to pray
- We remain committed to the work and don't lose heart
- We take practical steps to secure and defend

We respond and apply the Word of God we have heard by dealing with setbacks with the Lord's strength and strategy.

Since you are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, may you throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. May you run with perseverance the race marked out for you, fixing your eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. May you consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Discussion Questions:

- How are the events of Nehemiah 4 similar to those in Ezra 4? What did you learn from Ezra 4 that also applies to Nehemiah 4?
- Why should we keep praying when facing setbacks? What should we pray for?
- What does it mean to work at something with all your heart?
- What practical steps did Nehemiah and the Israelites take to secure the walls and defend themselves? What can we learn from their actions?
- What did Nehemiah mean when he told the Israelites that God would fight for them? How does God fight for us?