**NOW STRENGTHEN MY HANDS**

Nehemiah 6:1-14

Key Verse 9

*They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, “Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed.” But I prayed, “Now strengthen my hands.”*

**Introduction[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. What did the enemies do to Nehemiah when the work was almost completed? (1-2) How did he respond to them? (3) How much pressure did they put on Nehemiah to change his mind, yet how did he respond? (4; Acts 20:24[[2]](#footnote-2))
2. How did Sanballat respond to Nehemiah’s firm commitment to rebuilding the wall? (5-7) How did these false accusations put pressure on Nehemiah to yield to their demand?
3. What did Nehemiah do? (8-9) What can we learn from Nehemiah about resisting God’s enemies to do His work? (2 Tim 1:6-8[[3]](#footnote-3))
4. Who was Shemaiah and what did he say to Nehemiah? (10) What did Nehemiah realised? (12-14) Then, how did he respond? (11)

1. We will face great opposition (inwardly and outwardly) when we make a decision to engage in God’s world salvation project. So we must be prepared. How? We must pray, just like Nehemiah in today’s passage, for God to strengthen our hands. Then we will not be distracted from God’s great work. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Acts 20:24** “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **2 Tim 1:6-8** For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. 9He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)