



FAITH FULL

FUELING YOUR FAITH IN A WORLD ON EMPTY

*Therefore,
since we are surrounded by such a
huge crowd (cloud) of witnesses to the life of faith,
let us strip (throw) off every weight (everything)
that slows us down (hinders), especially
the sin that so easily trips us up (entangles us).
And let us **run** with endurance (**perseverance**) the **race**
(the path) **God** has set (**marked out**) before us.*

Hebrews 12:1 NLT





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MESSAGE 8: OBSTACLE COURSE

“RACE” IN GREEK “AGONY”
NO “FUN RUN”



NEHEMIAH



*They said to me,
“Those who **survived** the exile
and are **back** in the province
are in great **trouble** and **disgrace**.
The **wall** of Jerusalem is **broken** down,
and its **gates** have been **burned** with fire.”
When I **heard** these things, I sat down and **wept**.
For some days I **mourned** and **fasted** and **prayed**
before the God of heaven.*

Nehemiah 1:3-4 NIV



FOUR RACING OBSTACLES

- The Obstacle of Indifference



“**BYSTANDER EFFECT**”



HOLY DISCONTENT
“POPEYE MOMENT”



FOUR RACING OBSTACLES

- ✓ The Obstacle of Indifference
- The Obstacle of **Insufficiency**



... so the king asked me,
“*Why* does your *face* look so *sad* when you are not ill.?”

This can be nothing but sadness of heart.
I was very much afraid, but I said to the king,

“May the king live forever!
Why should my face not look sad when the city
where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins,
and its gates have been destroyed by fire?”

The king said to me, “What is it you want?”

Nehemiah 2:2-4 NIV



“**ONE DAY** MOMENT”



FOUR RACING OBSTACLES

- ✓ The Obstacle of Indifference
- ✓ The Obstacle of Insufficiency
- The Obstacle of **Opposition**



*Nehemiah has said **yes** to **God**,
and that means saying **yes** to facing **opposition**.
That's just how it works. Sometimes we say,
"I ran into a **problem**. That means this isn't **God's will**."
We get the idea that a **smooth track** proves God is on **our side**;
bumps in the **road** are a heavenly **thumbs-down**.
But what if it's just the **opposite**? Sometimes when you face
roadblocks, you know you must be doing the **right thing**.
Do you remember **Newton's Third Law of Momentum**? ...
"Every **action** has an equal and **opposite reaction**."
What's **true** in the **physical** realm
tends to play out in the **spiritual** realm.*

Kyle Idleman: Don't Give Up



SPIRITUAL WARFARE



FOUR RACING OBSTACLES

- ✓ The Obstacle of Indifference
- ✓ The Obstacle of Insufficiency
- ✓ The Obstacle of Opposition
- The Obstacle of **Slow Progress**



So we **rebuilt** the **wall** till all of it reached **half** its **height**,
for the people **worked** with **all** their **heart**.

But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the
people of Ashdod **heard** that the **repairs** to Jerusalem's **walls**
had **gone ahead** and that the **gaps** were being **closed**,
they (**God's enemies**) were **very angry**.

They all **plotted** together to come and **fight** against **Jerusalem**
and stir up **trouble** against it. But we **prayed** to our **God**
and **posted** a guard **day** and **night** to meet this threat.

Meanwhile, the **people** in Judah said,
"The **strength** of the laborers is **giving out**, and there is
so much **rubble** that we cannot **rebuild** the wall."

Nehemiah 4:6-10 NIV



*What's the **point**?*



FACED WITH **SLOW PROGRESS**

1. **Embraced** the Obstacles



FACED WITH **SLOW PROGRESS**

1. Embraced the Obstacles
2. **Persevered** in Prayer



FACED WITH **SLOW PROGRESS**

1. Embraced the Obstacles
2. Persevered in Prayer
3. **Gathered** as One



*Let us consider how (**discover** creative ways)
we may **spur** (motivate) **one another**
on toward **love** and **good deeds**,
not **giving up** meeting (**gathering**) together,
as some are in the habit of doing,
but **encouraging** one another -
and all the more (**frequently**) as you
see **the Day** (Jesus' return) approaching.*

Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV



FACED WITH **SLOW PROGRESS**

1. Embraced the Obstacles
2. Persevered in Prayer
3. Gathered as One
4. Never Stopped **Building!**



*How **long** to **rebuild** the wall?*



*The **wall** was completed in **fifty-two days**,
on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul.
When all **our enemies** heard this,
all the surrounding **nations**
were **intimidated** (afraid)
and **lost their confidence**,
for they **realized** that this task (**work**)
had been accomplished (**done**) by **our God**.*

Nehemiah 6:15-16 CSB (NIV)



DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

How to build an enduring, go the distance faith ...

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Read Hebrews 8: 1-13 (3-6 Translations)

DBS: Hebrews 8:6-13
(**Three-Column Study**)

