

Stepping Out

Up, Out & Into, Part 2 Ed Noble, Lead Pastor February 17 & 19, 2017

LEAD (INFLUENCE) REALITY: When you step out, you get opposed. The question is, how do I see my way through? A question of "spiritual toughness."

We all eventually run into <u>detractors</u>, <u>distractors</u> and <u>occasional disasters</u>.

- Just because God has <u>clearly called us</u> to step out ≠ everything <u>goes smoothly</u> (or everybody is <u>happy</u>).
 - Corollary: It's largely a waste of time to anguish over "why".
 - God didn't send these trials, this opposition, these barriers, but He is in control of them.
 The point: You and God move forward.

SPIRITUAL TOUGHNESS — GETTING THROUGH OPPOSITION

REFUSE TO chase down every <u>slight</u>, <u>misunderstanding</u> and <u>crack back</u>.

⁴ Hear, O our God, for we are despised! Return their reproach on their own head! Reduce them to plunder in a land of exile! ⁵ Do not cover their iniquity, and do not wipe out their sin from before them. For they have bitterly offended the builders!

Nehemiah 4:4 (NET)

► HOW TO: Let God do it ...

[FYI: God doesn't let stuff slide. He takes it seriously when someone hurts us.]

REAL THREATS — take it to God and tighten our grip

But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set up a guard against them day and night.

Nehemiah 4:9

► HOW TO:

NOT just: "Say a quick prayer and do your thing"

- ... in the end it's all God
- ... but there's stuff He invites us to $\underline{\text{choose}}$ and $\underline{\text{do}}$ WITH HIM.

REMIND SELF — who $\underline{\textit{God is}}$, who I am $\underline{\textit{IN}}$ and $\underline{\textit{BECAUSE}}$ of Him

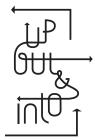
When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people: "Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses."

Nehemiah 4:14

- ► HOW TO: Memorize promises of God God's words are a <u>substance</u> not just an idea.
- ► DON'T forget <u>THE PROMISE</u> There's so much more...

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► HOW TO: _____ ... [FYI: God doesn't ______. He takes it seriously when someone hurts us.1 REAL THREATS — ______ But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set up a guard against them day and night. Nehemiah 4:9 ► HOW TO: NOT just: "Say a quick prayer and do your thing" ... in the end it's ... but there's stuff He invites us to _____ and ____ — REMIND SELF — who , who I am and of Him When I saw their fear, I rose and spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people: "Do not be afraid of them; remember the Lord who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives and your houses." Nehemiah 4:14 ► HOW TO: God's words are a ______ not just an idea. ► DON'T forget _____ — There's so much more...

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