

**Picking up the Broken Pieces**

**Franklin Heights Church**

**May 3, 2026**

**Rocky Mount-CrossPointe-Union Hall-Ferrum College-Recovery Church-Español**

Text: Ezra 4:1-5 (ESV)

Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

**1. Opposition often begins with \_\_\_\_\_.**

Ezra 4:1 (ESV)

*Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the LORD, the God of Israel,*

Ezra 4:2 (ESV)

*they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' houses and said to them, "Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria who brought us here."*

Ezra 4:3 (ESV)

*But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers' houses in Israel said to them, "You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."*

2 Kings 17:41 (ESV)

*So these nations feared the LORD and also served their carved images. Their children did likewise, and their children's children—as their fathers did, so they do to this day.*

**2. Opposition often uses the tool of \_\_\_\_\_.**

Ezra 4:4 (ESV)

*Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build and bribed counselors against them to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.*

**How to Deal with Discouragement:**

A \_\_\_\_\_ in God's love.

B \_\_\_\_\_ honest.

C \_\_\_\_\_ it's not about you.

D \_\_\_\_\_ your pain.

E \_\_\_\_\_ eternity.

**3. Opposition often uses the tool of \_\_\_\_\_.**

Ezra 4:6 (ESV)

*And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.*

Ezra 4:23-24 (ESV)

*Then, when the copy of King Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum and Shimshai the scribe and their associates, they went in haste to the Jews at Jerusalem and by force and power made them cease. Then the work on the house of God that is in Jerusalem stopped, and it ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.*

Acts 4:31 (ESV)

*And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*

John 16:33 (ESV)

*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*