UNDERSTANDING AND OVERCOMING OPPOSITION

SEPTEMBER 4, 2016
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• (1 Cor 16:8-9 NIV) But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, (9) because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

• (Gal 5:7-8 NIV) You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? (8) That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.
UNDERSTANDING AND OVERCOMING OPPOSITION

• Satan:
  – A Liar And A Deceiver
  – Has No Honor
  – Does Not Play By The Rules
  – Attempts To Divert Us From Our Course
  – Does Not Want Us To Finish The Race
  – Tries To Close Doors Of Opportunity & Ministry
A TRUE CLICHÉ: “If We Are Going To Win – We Have To Run A Smart Race!”
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• **Where Opposition Comes From**

• *(Gal 5:8 NIV)* That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.

• *(Eph 6:12 NIV)* For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.
• When Moving Ahead For God
   Opposition Is A Sure Thing

• *(John 16:33 NIV)* In this world you will have trouble."
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• The Kingdom Is Advanced Thorough Struggling And Contention

• (Mat 11: 12 KJV) And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

• Advances In The Kingdom Happen Through Battles Being Fought And Won
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• The Nature Of The Opposition

• Opposition Often Comes From A Person (a tool of Satan) Who Doesn't Have An Up-to-date Relationship With Christ
• When We Move Forward And Begin To Open Doors Of Opportunity We Must Expect The Opposition Of Satan

• (Eph 4:27 NIV) . . . do not give the devil a foothold.
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• THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO STOP -- IF YOU WILL KEEP ON IN THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD YOU WILL BE A 100% VICTOR!

• WE NEED TO LEARN TO TRUST FULLY IN THE LORD
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• Psalm 55:22 (NLT) (22) Give your burdens to the LORD, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall.

• Hebrews 3:14 (NLT) (14) For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.
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• 2 Timothy 4:18 (NLT) (18) Yes, and the Lord will deliver me from every evil attack and will bring me safely into his heavenly Kingdom. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen
• 2 Corinthians 4:8-10 (NLT) (8) We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. (9) We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. (10) Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.
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• Situations And Circumstances Change

• God’s Character Does Not Change

• He’s With His People In Times Of Trouble
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• Isaiah 41:10 (NLT) (10) Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

• Isaiah 43:2-3 (NLT) (2) When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. (3) For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
• Psalm 18:2 (NLT) (2) The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.

• Psalm 30:5 (NLT) Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.
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- **Psalm 46:1 (NLT)** (1) God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

- **Psalm 50:15 (NLT)** (15) ... “call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory.”
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• Psalm 91:1-3, 11 (NLT) (1) Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. (2) This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. (3) For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease.

• (11) For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.
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- Psalm 91:14-16 (NLT) (14) The LORD says, “I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. (15) When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them. (16) I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation.”
UNDERSTANDING AND OVERCOMING OPPOSITION

• **GOD’S VICTORIES ARE 100% VICTORIES**
  – HIS RECUE IS COMPLETE
  – HIS REWARDS ARE ETERNAL

• **THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO GIVE UP >>> HOLD ON!!**

• **HOLD ON**
  – UNTIL YOUR ANSWER COMES THROUGH
  – UNTIL YOU BREAK THROUGH
  – UNTIL THE VICTORY IS IN YOUR HANDS