



Dealing With Opposition



You are living God's plan for your life! It is exciting and right where you should be; however, it does not come without opposition. God's best for you and the opposition cannot coexist in your life and ministry, since opposition will do its best to thwart God's work in you and through you. We need to know how to effectively deal with opposition so we can move forward with God. Opposition comes from three main sources—friends and family, the church (those we serve and serve with), and ourselves. Here are practical ways to deal with opposition from each of these sources.

- 1. Friends and Family.** Listen to their real concerns. You may need to guide the conversation so their concerns are discussed and rabbit trails are avoided. Which concerns are valid and need consideration?
 - Consider and address valid concerns. Explain that regarding the rest of their concerns they will need to trust you and the Lord. If that is not enough end the conversation.
 - Identify other motives and their tactics—fear, guilt, manipulation, wanting to keep you close and the same. Do not listen to arguments where they use these tactics. Often when we stop listening, they lose their huff and puff.
 - Continue with God's plan. Matthew 16:21-28; 12:46-49.
- 2. The Church.** Consider what truth, if any, the person is stating. Is this a matter of preference or has a biblical truth been compromised or misunderstood?
 - If the latter, explain the misunderstanding, or admit the error and correct it.
 - If it is a preference issue or a personal attack (some people just won't like you), speak the truth of the situation to them and then move on. Speak with love and graciousness, but don't let them derail God's work. Remember, we can't be best friends with everyone.
 - Move on to the next thing God has for you. Matthew 12:1-14.
 - Ignore public opinion. Jesus never let public opinion slow down His mission or hinder it. He never acquiesced to the latest polls. He knew what is in the hearts of men and He didn't let it deter Him. John 2:24-25.
 - Don't engage in endless discussions and arguments about what you're doing and why. If they won't let it go, refer them to your authority. 2 Timothy 2:14-18.
- 3. Self.** Have you stumbled on your own issues? We must slay the opposition we pose to ourselves if we are going to live the fabulous life God has for us and fulfill our ministry.
 - Identify the one or two things you do to sabotage yourself. Write them in the margin. If your mind is blank, ask your spouse or trusted friend. They'll be happy to share.
 - Give these to God. Admit the reason you hang on to them—fear, insecurity, laziness.
 - For one week do exactly what you know you should do—the next thing God has shown you. *No more excuses*—make commitment to serve where you are gifted or to move on to the next thing. *Procrastination*—take small steps. Use your dayplanner; make the phone call; ask for help where needed. *Laziness*—abstain from the distractions that allow you to wallow in unproductivity. No TV, computer, texting, etc. *Perfectionism*—is this about doing a good job for God or making sure you look good to everyone else? *Discouragement*—this is never from God. Address it with truth and get off the bench and back in the game!

Are you ready to slay the opposition to your fabulous life with God? Yes, you are! God's best for you and the opposition cannot coexist in your life or ministry.