

**Kingwood Church
of Christ**

ENEMIES AND FRENEMIES

The Kingwood Church of Christ exists to fearlessly
make and grow committed disciples of Jesus.

FRIEND
ENEMY



“Richard Williams was a fierce defender of his family,” Smith said, seeming to allude to the viral moment, which viewers at home were unsure if it was scripted or an authentic reaction. He then mentioned some of his King Richard costars. “In this time in my life, in this moment, I am overwhelmed by what **God is calling on me to do** and be in this world.

Will Smith

I'm a Christian but I'm really undeveloped. I don't have high-level Christianity. On a scale of 1 to 10, I'm like a 2. That's the level of Christianity I can work on. You slap T.D. Jakes, he'll turn the other cheek. You slap me? If you sit back in your seat, Jada [Will's wife] would have to move out of the way. **That's the type of Christian I am.**

Steve Harvey



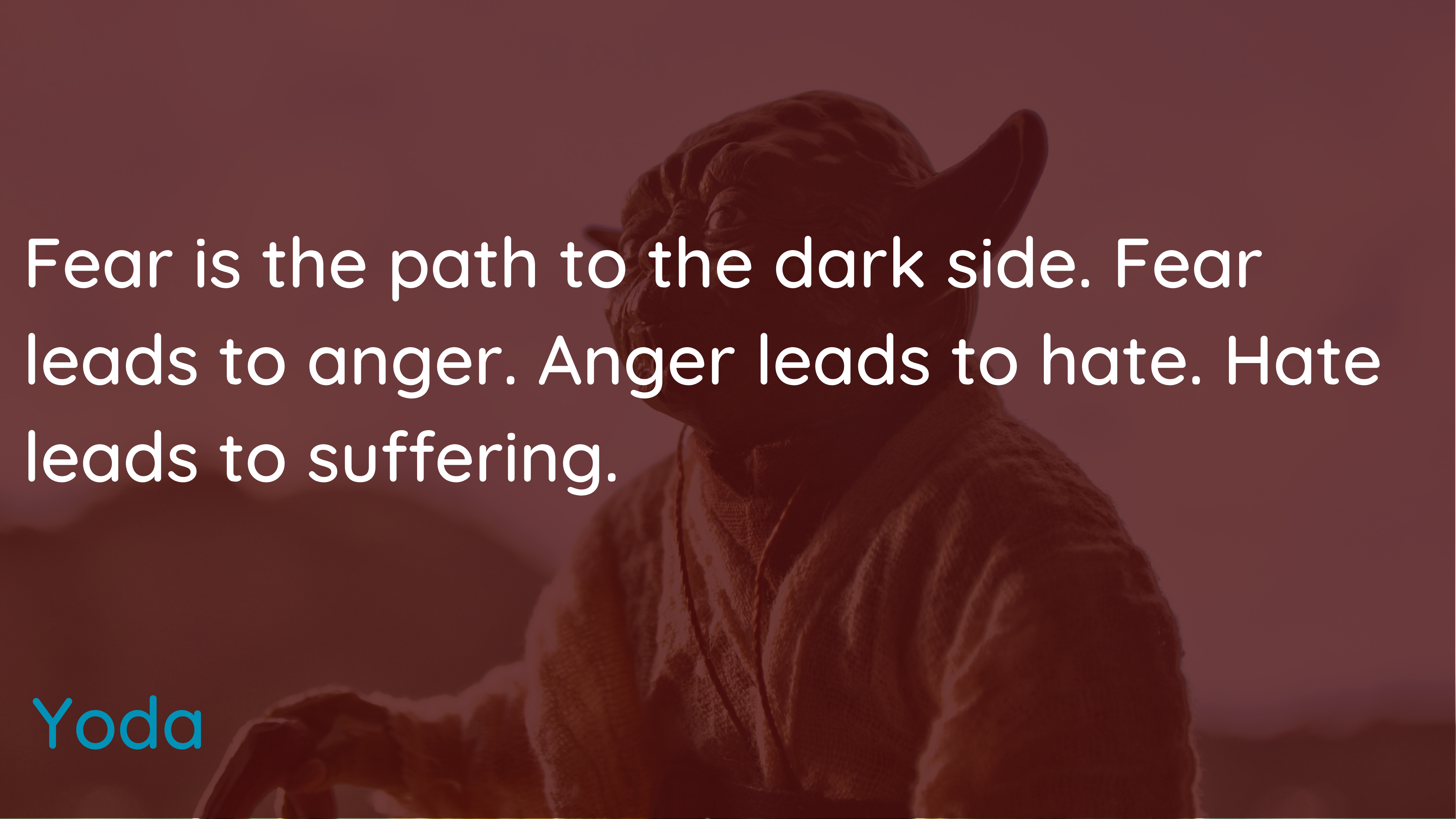
What am I going to do when I find myself
in a difficult situation?

The Tension



What am I going to let God do when I find myself in a difficult situation?

The Real Tension

A statue of Yoda from Star Wars, shown from the chest up, looking slightly to the left. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent dark red overlay. The text is written in white, sans-serif font across the upper half of the image.

Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering.

Yoda

JAMES 1

19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, 20 because human anger **does not produce** the righteousness that God desires. 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

EPHESIANS 6

12 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.

1. How our enemy operates

Two Lessons

- 
1. How our enemy operates
 2. The kind of response God calls us to
(Nehemiah)

Two Lessons

OUR ENEMY

**WILL AMASS
HIS FORCES**

NEHEMIAH 4

When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, ² and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?"

NEHEMIAH 4

3 Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, "What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!"

FRIENDS
EMERGENCY

NEHEMIAH'S RESPONSE

HE PRAYED
FOR JUSTICE

NEHEMIAH 4

4 Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. 5 Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, **for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.**

NEHEMIAH 4

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

FRIEND
ENEMY

OUR ENEMY

**WILL STIR
THE PLOT**

NEHEMIAH 4

7 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 were very angry. 8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it.

NEHEMIAH'S RESPONSE

HE PRAYED
AND KEPT A KEEN EYE OUT

NEHEMIAH 4

9 But we prayed to our God **and** posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

FRIEND
ENEMY

NEHEMIAH 4

10 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."

OUR ENEMY

**WILL INFILTRATE
OUR RANKS**

NEHEMIAH 4

11 Also our enemies said, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work."

12 Then the Jews who lived near them came and **told us ten times over**, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us."

MATTHEW 7

15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

FRIEND
ENEMY

NEHEMIAH'S RESPONSE

HE POSTED WATCHMEN
READY TO DEFEND

NEHEMIAH 4

13 Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall **at the exposed places**, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.

PREVENGERS



ACTS 20

28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 So be on your guard!

NEHEMIAH 4

14 After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

OUR ENEMY

WILL WEAKEN
OUR RESOLVE

NEHEMIAH 4

16 From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah 17 who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, 18 and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked. But the man who sounded the trumpet stayed with me. 19 Then I said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people,

NEHEMIAH 4

"The work is **extensive and spread out**, and we are widely separated from each other along the wall.

FRIENDS
ENEMIES



You're overall problem is perfectionism.
"You always try to be perfect, he says, and you always fall short. You try to hit a winner on every ball, when just being steady, consistent, meat and potatoes, would be enough to win ninety percent of the time. Stop swinging for the fences. All you have to be is solid.

Brad Gilbert (about Andre Agassi)

NEHEMIAH'S RESPONSE

HE CREATED A NETWORK
OF FAITH

NEHEMIAH 4

20 *Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us there.* Our God will fight for us!”

21 So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. 22 At that time I also said to the people, “Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and as workers by day.”

1 PETER 5

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because **you know that the family of believers throughout the world** is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a piece of paper. It features two large, light-colored arrows pointing in opposite directions, one towards the top right and one towards the bottom left. A large, semi-transparent 'X' watermark is overlaid on the background, centered behind the text.

OUR GOD
IS FIGHTING FOR US!

**Kingwood Church
of Christ**

ENEMIES AND FRENEMIES

The Kingwood Church of Christ exists to fearlessly
make and grow committed disciples of Jesus.

FRIEND
ENEMY