A Los Angeles man who fought back to defend his home and family has been stripped of his concealed carry permit. Vince Ricci said the decision was made because he used his weapon to defend his home from robbers, according to the [Post Millennial](https://thepostmillennial.com/california-man-stripped-of-gun-permit-after-defending-himself-family-from-armed-robbery-in-driveway).

“After successfully defending my home and my family and my 5-month-old child, California has now decided to suspend my Second Amendment,” he said, according to [Fox News](https://www.foxnews.com/us/armed-homeowner-who-defended-family-in-driveway-shoot-out-says-hes-been-stripped-of-gun-permit).

“When the incident happened, there were only two things I could rely on: myself and the Second Amendment; and now that’s in jeopardy. The leftist gun grabbers do not care about your safety. The [NRA](https://www.westernjournal.com/us-supreme-court-agrees-hear-landmark-nra-free-speech-case-backed-18-states/) does,” he said.

The sheriff’s office, however, told Ricci that revocation came after he yelled at Los Angeles Police Department officers who showed up to investigate. Ricci did not deny that when LAPD showed up three days after the incident, he accused them of “sloppy police” work, saying they did not pick up casings near his home as evidence.

What’s certain is that on Nov. 4, two men tried to [enter the house](https://www.westernjournal.com/three-punks-allegedly-attempt-midday-burglary-homeowner-shoots-one-creates-nightmare-two/). They were armed. Ricci, with his wife, 5-month-old daughter and the family’s nanny inside, fought back. “My situation is unique because it happened at my front door, all on camera. But this happens time and time again all over the country … People sweep it under the rug because it doesn’t behoove their political agenda. The fact is, evil will always exist,” he said.

Ricci said the case was simple [self-defense](https://www.westernjournal.com/alleged-home-intruder-growled-something-tough-armed-homeowner-confronted-shouldve-just-kept-mouth-shut/) because two men were “pointing guns at my chest.” He noted that crime has touched his neighborhood before, including a break-in at a neighbor’s house the night prior to the incident at his home. ( [www.westernjournal.com](http://www.westernjournal.com) )

We live in a crazy world. We must defend our homes — physically AND spiritually. Our homes are like outposts of heaven behind enemy lines. Our enemies would do anything to destroy our homes and our lives. **WE** must make sure that we keep ourselves, our homes and our families safe from ***EVERY*** kind of evil.

We are at war with the evil in this world. We are locked in a spiritual struggle. It is getting worse and worse. We cannot do nothing. We need to actively defend our homes and families in Jesus’ name.

Now, I am not focusing this morning on Second Amendment issues. I am focusing on the need for equipping ourselves to protect ourselves and those we love from every enemy of life, liberty and happiness. Jesus said, “*But now, whoever has a money-bag should take it, and also a traveling bag. And* ***whoever doesn’t have a sword should sell his robe and buy one***” (Luk 22:36). Is Jesus saying we should sell our ski jackets and buy a Smith & Wesson? We need the Second amendment AND the sword of the Spirit. We need salvation AND Spirit-filling. We need the sword AND the shield of faith. We need to do EVERYTHING we can and ANYTHING necessary to protect ourselves and our families and friends from “*the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens*” (Eph 6:12).

I want us to take a look at a passage that fits right in with what we are thinking about this morning. We are going to look at the OT book of Nehemiah, the fourth chapter.

Our adversaries are the devil and demons. They employ strategies. They have, as it were, a demonic tool box. Their demonic ways include : Distract, Discourage, Deflect, Desensitize, Depress, Demonize (if they cannot possess; they will oppress) and Defend (‘their’ territory). See how many of these demonic tools are in use through this passage.

Jerusalem is in ruins. Persia has replaced Babylon as the world power. Jews have begun to trickle back to their homeland. Zerubbabel has brought back a group, then decades later, Ezra brings a second group back to the land. Things are not progressing well. The year would be about 444 BC, almost 2500 years ago. Meanwhile, Nehemiah is in a position in the royal palace of Artaxerxes I. He leads a third wave of returnees back to Jerusalem. Nehemiah has been authorized to be governor. Ezra is the religious leader and Nehemiah is the governor. He recognizes that the wall must be re-built for the city to amount to anything.

Nehemiah is not a politician. He is a ***leader***. Nehemiah is a ***man of faith*** and ***prayer*** and ***action***. Nehemiah has something to say to fathers and men TODAY! I say, be like Nehemiah!

What does Nehemiah say to us today?

 1. Opposition is EVERYWHERE (1, 3, 7)

 Sanballat Samaria North

 Tobiah Ammon East

 Arabs South

 Ashdodites Ashdod West

Perhaps you heard about the Lone Ranger and Tonto. The Ranger says, “Indians on the left Tonto, turn right.” They did this 3 more times. Lone Ranger says,” Tonto, we’re surrounded by Indians.” Tonto replies, “What do you mean ‘we,’ white man?”

 2. Prayer is powerful (4, 9)

 3. Attitude is everything (6)

 4. Say a prayer ***plus*** station a guard (Jesus said, “Watch and pray) (9)

 “Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition!”

 5. Employ sound strategies (11-13).

 6. Stand together with your family. Protect your home

 (3.10, 23, 28, 29, 30, 4.13)

 7. Encourage one another (14)

 8. Each one has their OWN work to do (15)

 9. Everybody needs to be armed (18, 23)

10. God will fight for us! (20)

11. Be persistent and consistent (21)

12.  Be ready at all times (23)

Nehemiah has ***A LOT*** to say to us today! But wait — ***There’s MORE***! Look at verse 14. Here are three specifics Nehemiah has for us.

**I. DON’T BE AFRAID OF THEM**

 ***Fear NOT***

**II. REMEMBER THE GREAT AND AWE-INSPIRING LORD**

 ***Faith it***

**III. FIGHT FOR YOUR COUNTRYMEN, YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS, YOUR WIVES AND HOMES**

 ***Fight for your HOME and FAMILY***

Each one our audacious abodes is ***an outpost of heaven*** in this world. We are situated behind enemy lines. We are plum surrounded by sin and evil, trials and temptations, the devilish and demonic. We must stand. Stand firm. Stand tall; Stand together; Stand out; Stand for Jesus!

We are fighting for our faith.

 We are fighting for our families.

 We are fighting for our future.

Sometime ago, in Boston, an elderly lady was walking slowly alongside two young girls, about six or seven years old. I would guess they were her granddaughters or grandnieces. She was blind. In one hand she carried a red and white cane while her other held the leash of a German shepherd seeing-eye dog. One of the little girls was stroking and patting the back of the huge, friendly animal.

Suddenly chaos. From down the block hurtled a large mongrel street dog, barking and snarling loudly, spoiling for a fight. Swiftly he lunged at the German shepherd, who sprang back at him in snarling, furious rage. The two dogs pounced and snapped with bared teeth at each other, growling and barking ferociously in an all-out serious fight. The noise was loud and shocking.

What happened next was even worse. The blind woman wildly thrashed her cane back and forth trying to scare away the attacker, while the two children screamed hysterically. The little girls stood transfixed, absolutely horrified, loudly shrieking and sobbing in terror. The street echoed with the children’s terrified screams mixed with wild, furious barks and growls.

Something in that sudden, frightening sound kids screaming and dogs wildly barking electrified everyone within earshot. My friend and I dashed across the street to help the lady and the little girls. As we did, we saw other men running at full speed from every direction.

A taxi screeched to a halt, and the driver and his passenger leaped out. Other cars slammed their brakes, and men, leaving their car doors open, dashed out to help. Doors flew open in the townhouses nearby and men ran down stairs into the street. In seconds a group of 12 or 15 men, including a couple of college youths, pulled the screaming kids and the woman back to safety, while the others belted the dogs with jackets and rolled-up papers, anything at hand, to separate them and chase off the attacker. (A brave thing to do, for it’s dangerous to meddle in a dogfight.) The mongrel quickly broke off and ran away. All the men then turned to calm down the children and assure them everything was OK. A woman, beckoned from a townhouse doorway and gently led the blind lady with her dog and the kids inside to rest up. People stepped back into cars and drove off, while pedestrians drifted away.

What happened in this rescue was something primitive and powerful, a force thousands of years old. Each adult male within earshot heard a sound that reached deep inside his male instincts and jolted him into enraged defensive action “Children being attacked by beasts!…Save the children!…Repel the beasts!” Men dropped what they were doing and, heedless of their own safety, flung themselves forward to protect the kids. ( catholiceducation.org )

***Men are SUPPOSED to protect*** their faith, their family, friends and future! We are supposed to FIGHT. Be like Nehemiah – Fear not - Faith it - Fight the good fight of faith!