

Victory Connect Lesson
Nehemiah Series: Focus is the New Superpower
Pastor Paul Daugherty
August 20, 2023

Introduction: The distractions of digital entertainment and communication technology have engulfed the globe. Distractions are never as important as the thing you are distracted from. The ability to focus on one thing has become the most valued currency, **the new superpower**. Nehemiah's great focus generated great fruit.

Key Passage: Read Neh. 6:1-4. The wall of Jerusalem was nearly completed, "interrupters" came to distract Nehemiah from the work. Nehemiah told them "**I am engaged in a great work, so I cannot come down.** Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?" [Neh 6:3 NLT]

[Isa 50:7 KJV] 7 For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have **I set my face like a flint**, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

[Col 3:2 KJV] 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

1. Four things to consider when distracted:

- a) Consider the Source (Is it reputable?)
- b) Consider the Content (Is it uplifting?)
- c) Consider the Reason (What is the motive?)
- d) Consider your Response (Is it measured?)

2. Distractions Nehemiah and all godly leaders face:

Ridicule, resistance, rumors, discouragement, division, non-stop messages, fake news, fear and intimidation.

3. How to Focus by Faith:

- a) Focus on prayer and reliance on God
Prayer brings the goal into focus
Prayer brings clarity to the vision
- b) Focus on persistence in your divine work
Outlast your critics
Truth will always outlast a lie
- c) Focus on the Victory
Refuse to quit.
You cannot chase two rabbits at once.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you respond when distractions come?
2. What is your "wall" now?
3. Who is your "Israel"?
4. What is God calling you to focus on this year?

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