

## “Focused Hearts”

Nehemiah 6:1-19

The wall has reached the brink of completion in Jerusalem  
 While there is much to celebrate, the challenges remain relentless  
 There is a “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” temptation to give up under the pressure  
 Nehemiah and the covenant community remain committed – on task-- \_\_\_\_\_  
 Kingdom focus is a central theme of the Christian life

### I. Dangers to Kingdom focus

- A. The danger of \_\_\_\_\_  
 The good may be the \_\_\_\_\_ of the best, if it distracts us from it.  
 Distraction results in sins of \_\_\_\_\_
- B. The danger of discouragement  
 The \_\_\_\_\_ of courage with fear
- C. The danger of (unnecessary) fear  
*“For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done.” [9a]*

### II. Some focus on focus

Nehemiah is focused on – is \_\_\_\_\_ on--the strength and resolve of another!

- A. Prayer: specific focus and attention  
*“But now, O God, strengthen my hands.” [9b]*  
*“The God of heaven will make us prosper.” [Nehemiah 2:20a]*  
*“On the day I called, you answered me; you made me bold and \_\_\_\_\_” [Psalm 138:3, NIV]*
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of focus  
 We are likely to pull back from \_\_\_\_\_ when our convictions are vague  
*“I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to.”*  
 [Acts 13:22]  
 1. The Apostle Paul’s \_\_\_\_\_ focus – *“This one thing I do”* [Philippians 3: 13b]  
 2. Live life before an Audience of One
- C. Courage is \_\_\_\_\_ focus
- D. Focus is a \_\_\_\_\_

### III. The Focus

Jesus is the true \_\_\_\_\_ --“the King of kings and Lord of lords”  
 The powers of evil did not distract Him from His focus  
 We \_\_\_\_\_ our eyes on Jesus  
 The Lord’s Supper is a place of unique focus.

*“It is the Lord who goes before you.  
 He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you.  
 Do not fear or be dismayed.”*  
 [Deuteronomy 31:8]