

***Nehemiah***  
***Staying Focused***

*Nehemiah 2:17-18*

## Nehemiah 2:17-18

*Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach." And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work.*

# *History*

- *1400 BC – Israel receives the land of Canaan*
- *Moses warned them about disobeying God*
- *721 BC – Northern tribes taken into captivity by the Assyrians*
- *612 BC to 586 BC – Judah taken into captivity by Babylon*
- *586 BC - Jerusalem and temple destroyed*

# *History*

- *538 BC – Zerubbabel allowed to return with others to Jerusalem by Cyrus – King of Persia*
- *They rebuild the temple foundation*
- *516 BC – With urging from Haggai and Zechariah they finish the temple*
- *Many who remember the temple built by Solomon weep*

# *History*

- *458 BC to 444 BC – Ezra and Nehemiah return*
- *Nehemiah focuses on a restoration of the walls and rebuilding of Jerusalem*
- *Ezra focuses on a restoration of the Law in the hearts of the people*
- *By staying focused, they get others to stay focused as well*
- *We are going to study about that today*



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# *Through Prayer*

- *For courage - **Nehemiah 1:5-11; 2:4***
- *For protection – **Nehemiah 4:9, 15***
- *For being remembered - **Nehemiah 5:19***
- *Praise - **Nehemiah 8:6***
- *Recognition of man's disobedience & repentance - **Nehemiah 9:5-38***
- *Asking for God's mercy - **Nehemiah 13:14, 29***



# *Through Study*

- *Reading of the Law - **Nehemiah 8:1-8***
- *Following the Law - **Nehemiah 8:13-18***
- *Following the Law even when it was difficult to do - **Nehemiah 13:1-3***

# *Emotionally*

- *Weeping over Jerusalem's devastation - **Nehemiah 1:1-4***
- *Sadness before the King - **Nehemiah 2:1-2***
- *Fear – **Nehemiah 4:1-15***
- *Mourning and weeping over hearing the Law - **Nehemiah 8:9-12***

# *Emotionally*

- *Anger over mistreatment - **Nehemiah 5:1-18***
- *Penitence with fasting, sackcloth & dust - **Nehemiah 9:1-3***
- *Rejoicing with great joy - **Nehemiah 12:43***
- *Anger over sin - **Nehemiah 13:25***

# *Through Distractions*

- *His important position - **Nehemiah 1:11***
- *Opposition from the Samaritans – **Nehemiah 3:10, 19***
- *Mocked – **Nehemiah 4:1-3***
- *Threatened – **Nehemiah 4:7-8***
- *Sin – **Nehemiah 13:1-31***



# *Through Prayer*

- *Often - 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (Christ & Paul)*
- *Privately – Matthew 6:5*
- *Sincerely – Matthew 6:7*
- *In faith - no doubting – James 1:5-7; 5:14-15*
- *With thanksgiving – Philippians 4:6*
- *With praise – Hebrews 13:15*
- *Confessing sin – 1 John 1:9*

# *Through Study*

- *Making it a priority – **2 Timothy 2:15***
- *Mediating day and night – **Psalms 1:1-3***
- *Following it diligently – **2 Peter 1:8-11***
- *Following it even when it is difficult – **1 Corinthians 6:9-11***

# *Emotionally*

- *Weeping – Philippians 3:17-19; James 4:8-9*
- *Sadness – Romans 9:1-5*
- *Fear – Matthew 10:28*

# *Emotionally*

- *Righteous indignation over sin – Jude 22-23*
- *True penitence over sin – 2 Corinthians 7:9-10*
- *Rejoicing with great joy – 1 Peter 1:6-9*



# *Through Distractions*

- *Our positions in life – Luke 10:38-42*
- *Opposition – Acts 13:45*
- *Mocked – Acts 17:32*
- *Threatened – Acts 4:21*
- *Sin – Hebrews 11:24-25*

- *Nehemiah stayed focused on what needed to be accomplished.*
- *Once they started, they rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem in 52 days.*
- *What an accomplishment with very little to work with.*
- *What could we accomplish in 52 days?*
- *With prayer and study, being emotionally involved and working through distractions, much can be accomplished.*
- *You can start today being focused on your salvation.*
- *Become a child of God tonight.*
- *As a Christian, do you need prayers for sin or for other needs?*
- *If you have any needs, let us help you now.*