



# VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

## Weekly Bible Study - 20:11:2011

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### **Study 21: SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT AND CONCENTRATION**

*Nehemiah 6:1-9*

Problems and challenges are normal experiences for any life but through commitment and concentration any task can be accomplished irrespective of the magnitude of the circumstances. Divine call does not entail duplication of others ministries but developing and excelling in our God's given talents. Jesus underscored the importance of this when he taught that no one can serve two masters, and that a city divided against itself cannot stand (Matthew 6:24; Mark 3:24-26). Singleness of eye (Matthew 6:22-23) and concentration in a singular goal is the secret to success and prosperity (Luke 9:62; 10:41,42; Philippians 3:7-14; 1 Kings 20:39,40). ***The development and achievement of one's full potentials only comes through commitment and concentration of one's life to the only course worth dying for.*** It is often said that a jack of all trades is a master of none. The devil fights vehemently against commitment and concentration. If he can keep a person's mind divided at purpose, plans and goals, he can waste the time, talents and resources of such a person as well as undermine his / her effectiveness in life and ministry.

The devil tempted Christ with kingship on two occasions (Matthew 4:8-10, John 6:15) not because he was interested in seeing Christ become a king but rather because he wanted to divide the focus of his attention and undermine his effectiveness in accomplishing His mission. Solomon was a man of divergent goals who ultimately realised towards the end of his life that ***"all is vanity and vexation of the spirit"*** (Ecclesiastes 2: 10,11; 12:13,14). On the other hand Paul was a man of singular ambition and ultimately declared toward the end of his life that he hath ***"fought a good fight of faith and finished his course with joy"*** (2 Timothy 4:5-8; Ecclesiastes 12:12).

In our text, the devil wanted to distract the attention of Nehemiah from his primary objective. However, through commitment and concentration Nehemiah overcame him and accomplished his task. As his enemies could not win offensive warfare they devised means to distract Nehemiah from concentrating in the completion of his divine call and mission in life. He still uses the same strategy against everyone alive today. If he cannot stop a person from accomplishing his goals he will try to distract him with a view to rendering him ineffective and a mediocre.

#### **1. DISTRACTIONS OF THE ENEMY: *Nehemiah 6:1-7.***

To delay the building work, enemies repeatedly invited Nehemiah to a meeting - a seemingly harmless / socially desirable activities, but which would undermine his spiritual objectives and goals. This has been his strategy all through the ages. It is the same diversionary strategy that thieves and terrorists still use today – i.e. to divert the attentions of the police to minor issues so that they can launch major attacks

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without hindrance. He tried to get Abraham's eyes off the promised Isaac through the shortcut to Ishmael. He distracted Martha from hearing the "one thing that is needful" through over concentration on much serving. He tempted Peter to go back to the fishing business at the expense of preaching the gospel (John 21:2-3). He sidetracked the Greeks with endless search for wisdom (I Corinthians 1:22-25; Acts 17:16-21; Jeremiah 8:9) and the Jews with endless crave for miracles. He sows seeds of discord among brethren (Philippians 2:1-2; 4:2) to keep them busy / fighting over non essentials while leaving the important things undone. He keeps the mind wandering with thoughts and fears (Galatians 5:17; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5) so as to distract them from gaining breakthroughs through concentration on God's promises.

## **2. COMMITMENT AND CONCENTRATION: Nehemiah 6:3,4.**

It takes more than ability or sincerity to excel in God's given tasks. It is a true saying that availability is more important to God than ability. This is so because the devil has successfully fought to make many able men and women not available for divine service through being busy with useless tasks and assignments that will not add much to accomplishing their destiny. ***The determination to sink or swim in the task and a readiness to die at one's post are the indices of commitment.*** The willingness to put all eggs in one basket is the hallmark of concentration. Nehemiah said, ***"I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down to you"***. This is the secret of commitment and of success. ***One cannot be truly committed to God until s/he recognizes:***

1. the supremacy of divine service above all other tasks;
2. that consent to the lure of the devil will bring him down;
3. that in view of the uniqueness of one's talents and peculiarities, divine service will be adversely affected if it is abandoned for social events, career development or pleasure seeking,
4. that a committed and dedicated person has so much to do for God that he cannot afford to waste any time on trivial things (I Corinthians 6:12; 10:23).

Commitment also implies total submission to the entire scripture. While one is still limping between two opinions, and while the heart is divided one's service will always be found faulty (I Kings 18:21; Hosea 10:2). It is impossible to effectively and acceptably serve Christ while at the same time still arguing about scriptural truths that should have been settled ages ago. ***"Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall"*** (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Commitment and consecration is the secret to success and prosperity. It was said of Hezekiah ***"And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered"*** (2 Chronicles 31:21). Paul's decision not to know any other thing but Christ catapulted him to exceptional success in divine service (I Corinthians 2:2; Revelation 2:24).