



## Shut the Door on Distractions

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... So they began the good work. **Nehemiah 2:18** NLT

<sup>1</sup> Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained—though we had not yet set up the doors in the gates. <sup>2</sup> So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me, <sup>3</sup> so I replied by sending this message to them: “I am engaged in a great work, so I can’t come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?” <sup>4</sup> Four times they sent the same message, and each time I gave the same reply. <sup>5</sup> The fifth time, Sanballat’s servant came with an open letter in his hand, <sup>6</sup> and this is what it said: “There is a rumor among the surrounding nations, and Geshem tells me it is true, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel and that is why you are building the wall. According to his reports, you plan to be their king. <sup>7</sup> He also reports that you have appointed prophets in Jerusalem to proclaim about you, ‘Look! There is a king in Judah!’ “You can be very sure that this report will get back to the king, so I suggest that you come and talk it over with me.” <sup>8</sup> I replied, “There is no truth in any part of your story. You are making up the whole thing.” <sup>9</sup> They were just trying to intimidate us, imagining that they could discourage us and stop the work. So I continued the work with even greater determination. **Neh. 6:1-9** NLT

### 1. Distractions come in many forms

### 2. How to recognize distractions

### 3. Tips to stay focused on the “Good Work”

- Just because you could doesn’t mean you should
- If you are always available to everyone, eventually you will have nothing to give to anyone
- Learn to say “no” more often

<sup>15</sup> So on October 2 the wall was finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun. <sup>16</sup> When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God. **Nehemiah 6:15-16** NLT

### Next Steps:

- Ask God to give me wisdom to stay focused on the “Good Work” he has for me
- Pray and ask God to show me what interruptions and distractions are part of his plan for me
- I will say “no” to \_\_\_\_\_ so I can say “yes” to \_\_\_\_\_
- Read Nehemiah chapter 6 this week
- \_\_\_\_\_