



Neh. 6:1-14 – Fear Factor: God’s Work Requires Courage

Introduction

To be a Christian requires great, *moral courage*. For many across the world, a commitment to Christ will cost them their very lives. For us in the West, a commitment to Christ could likely cost us our reputation and popularity. At the very least, it will mean being out of step with the environment that we are in. However, as we grow in our faith, there will be opportunities of testing that will come along which will require of us *moral courage* in which we will have to decide if we stand with or against Christ.

Today, we see how Nehemiah handled opposition with moral courage by allowing God to “strengthen his hands.”

Nehemiah’s strategy for defeating the “Fear Factor”

- **PRIORITIES** - Nehemiah refused to be distracted from Kingdom priorities
- **“DEAF EARS”** - Nehemiah refused to get involved with social drama
- **BACKBONE** - Nehemiah refuses to be fooled, intimidated and bullied into sin

Conclusion

We worship a God who raises the dead! We know this because Jesus Christ is *alive*. Therefore, there is always hope for our church, families and future!

His Work, His Way, His Glory: The Life & Times of Nehemiah

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Notes

Questions for Reflection:

- 1) How did Nehemiah react to the voices challenging his leadership?
- 2) What does it mean to ask God to “strengthen our hands”?
- 3) What areas of your life is God calling you to be strengthened in?