



## 2018 The Year of F.O.C.U.S

**Focus on our Faith, Focus on our Families, Focus on our Fitness, Focus on our Finances, Focus on our Future**

### **A Faithful Focus Nehemiah 3 & 4**

#### **Chapter 3 Rebuilding the Walls**

1. Walls are made for protection and separation.
2. We must first focus on strengthening the spiritual walls God has placed in our lives.
3. Each man/family responsible for a portion of the gate closes to where he lives.

#### **10 Gates to the City**

**Each gate contains a message/principle given by God to strengthen our focus. We as believers must go through each gate.**

1. **Sheep Gate/ Main Gate**
  - a) All sacrificial animals brought in to be sacrificed through the sheep gate
  - b) Speaks to the cross of Christ. Christ was brought as a lamb to the slaughter.
  - c) The blood of sheep and bulls no longer saves, only the blood of Christ.

**THE HOUSE OF HOPE MACON**

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## 2) **Fish Gate**

- a) Fishermen from the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River used this gate to bring fish to market
- b) Once we're saved we become fishers of men.
- c) People don't visit a kingdom/country because you advertise the leader, they come because of the lifestyle, benefits, and the environment.
- d) Jesus is only the door. Show them the merchandise they'll find the door!
- e) In order to catch a fish, you have to know how to bait the hook!

## 3) **Old Gate**

- a) Speak of the old path (Jeremiah 6:16?)
- b) Is it popular? Can you make money from it? What's the newest fad?
  - I. Standing for the truth with no compromise!
  - II. Preaching against sin

## 4) **Valley Gate**

- a) Speaks of humility. We must humble ourselves.
  - I. Seeking position or titles
  - II. Not willing to work in the background

## 5) **Dung Gate**

- a) Filth and garbage of the city was carried out through this gate.
- b) People could not live in the city if this gate was blocked.
- c) Speaks to the filthiness of our flesh (2 Corinthians 7:1)
- d) We walk through this gate when we repent.

## 6) **Fountain Gate**

- a) Speaks to the Holy Spirit
  - I. Know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you... (1 Corinthians 6:19)
  - b) In every believer the Holy Spirit is grieved or ungrieved.

## 7) **Water Gate**

- a) Speaks to the Word of God.
  - I. We are cleansed through the word
  - II. The word shines light on the things we try to hide.
  - III. The word separates and protects us (builds our wall).

b) \*The Water Gate is the only gate that did not need repairing.

I. The Bible is the Word of God and does not need us to fix it.

II. It's called "Holy" Bible because it's consecrated, supernatural, and spiritually pure.

#### 8) Horse Gate

a) Horse depicts war; Donkey depicts peace

b) This gate speaks to the warfare a child of God will go through.

c) Put on the whole armor of God. We are in a spiritual war. (Ephesians 6:11)

#### 9) East Gate

a) Depicts the direction of God's return.

b) Faces the Mount of Olives, the place where Christ ascended and the place where he will return. (Acts 1:9-11)

c) Christ shall return from the East (Matthew 24:7 & Ezekiel 43:1-4)

#### 10) Inspection Gate/Parade Gate

a) Every stranger had to sign in and indicate who he/she was and what his business was in the city.

b) Gate the soldiers entered when returning from war. This where they were rewarded for their faithful service.

c) Depicts the return of Christ.

### Chapter 4 Progress in Spite of Opposition

#### **Enemies of Nehemiah:**

Sanballat (Haronite), Tobiah (Ammonite), and Geshem (Arab)

#### **Who were they:**

1) Regional governors serving under the King of Persia

2) Their people had previously been driven from the Promised Land by God.

**What were their tactics:**

- 1) Mocked the Jews in front of their colleagues and powerful men
- 2) Plotted to fight Jerusalem
- 3) Conspired to cause confusion

**How did Nehemiah/Children of Israel respond:**

- 1) Nehemiah continued to pray. (4:4-5)
- 2) People had the will to work (4:6)
- 3) Nehemiah encouraged and reminded them they already had the victory. (4:14)
- 4) They put on their armor. (4:16-18)