

Dr. John Johnson  
October 29-30, 2005  
Practicing the Presence of God  
Nehemiah 2:11-20

Nehemiah is in the midst of a “crisis” moment, a crossroads time, when he will move the downtrodden people of Jerusalem from passivity to activity in the rebuilding of the walls of their city. In verses 11-16, Nehemiah surveys the city’s wall, then in verse 17a he identifies himself with the people, and finally in verse 17b he appeals to their heart to initiate the rebuilding. Nehemiah was able to influence them through his sense of holy conviction and Pastor Johnson shares with us the three sides to conviction of this nature:

- We must have the conviction of God’s calling, vs. 12 “what God has set in my heart”
- We must have the conviction of God’s hand, vs. 18 “the gracious hand of God on me”  
How do we know it is His hand on us?
  - Clue #1 –You are finding yourself in situations obviously of God and not of your own making.
  - Clue #2 –You are realizing that you are doing something that in and of your own power you could not do.
- We must have the conviction of God’s success, vs. 19, opposition was always there, but he was never intimidated by it.

Questions for us as we apply this passage both individually and corporately:

1. What connected with you in Pastor’s message last weekend?
2. What steps have you taken to address the issue of purpose in your life? (Spent time alone with God seeking it? Received clarity from God on what is your purpose? Retooled a purpose you felt He gave you a long time ago?)
3. How has God been speaking to you with regard to Village’s vision? With regard to your own vision for your life? (Waiting, Praying, Listening, at a point of decision)
4. How have you felt the “hand of God” on Village? On you?
5. In what ways do you sense the conviction of God’s success in relation to our current challenge as a church?