Week 1:

Victory Over Critics & Distractions

Victorious

Questions

1. What illustration, story, or scripture had the greatest impact on you this week?
2. Reciting God's truth can help remind you of God's power in circumstances where you feel overwhelmed, afraid, or defeated. Review the reminders of God's truth below. Which verse speaks to a current challenge in your life? Why is that scripture so impactful to your current circumstance? Philippians 1:6, Matthew 6:33, Jeremiah 29:11
3. Pastor John referenced three distinct types of distractions/criticism: internal distractions, external distractions, and inner self-criticism. Which type of distraction or criticism do you experience most frequently? How has it stopped or slowed you down in the past?
4. Read Nehemiah 6:9. Share a time when you have seen or experienced someone complete a great project for God. Where did you see them overcoming distractions or criticism? How did their experience influence and encourage you?
5. What "great project" do you sense God has placed in your life right now? What distractions or resistance have made it difficult to pursue that fully? What would it look like for you to recite the truth, ask God for strength, and get back to work this week?
6. Pastor John said, "If you wait for critics or distraction to end, you will be waiting your entire life and never get to God's great project." What are you waiting for right now, and how might that be holding you back from obedience? How can you move forward despite the opposition?
7. Distractions often come disguised as opportunities or obligations. How can you discern whether something is a God-given assignment or a detour from your calling?
8. How can we help one another stay focused on our "great project" when the distractions of life start to pile up? What kind of encouragement or accountability do you personally need right now?
9. What is one practical step you can put into practice this week?

Scripture References

Read: Nehemiah 6:1–9, James 4:7, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 10:23, Philippians 1:6, Matthew 6:33, Jeremiah 29:11, Titus 3:1

Takeaways

- What can you do when your best efforts are repeatedly blocked or mocked?
- Distractions can come between you and God's great project for you.
    - Distractions: resistance, enslaving sin, past mistakes, busyness, comfort, critics/opponents, self-centered living, opposition, and apathy
- The solution to any critic or distraction is always the same:
  Recite the Truth, Ask God for Strength, and Get Back to Work.

CP

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- When you commit to a “great project,” you will face countless obstacles and distractions.
- If you wait for critics or distraction to end, you will be waiting your entire life and never get to God’s great project.
- 3 Types of Distractions:
    - External Critics directly oppose your wellbeing and the work of God in your life.
    - Internal Critics should be for you, but are blinded by fear, lack of faith, or the past.
    - Inner Critic is your own self-talk.
- Don’t give your best energy or emotion to your critics or distractions.
- God's solution to any critic or distraction is always the same:
  Recite the Truth, Ask God for Strength, and Get Back to Work.

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