



Midweek Study

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REBUILDING my BROKEN WORLD

Through Nehemiah

Victory Begins on Our Knees

Nehemiah 1:5-11

Stephen Davey once said, "I am often asked the question, 'How does prayer work?' My answer usually begins with the admission, 'I don't know how prayer works; I just know that prayer is work! And those who work at prayer discover that prayer works'."^a

"I once heard about a place in Africa where the gospel of Jesus Christ spread like wildfire. Many people came to Christ, and they committed themselves to a daily discipline of prayer. Each believer picked out his or her own private spot outside the village for a quiet time with the Lord. The grasslands and thickets beyond the village became crisscrossed with paths and well-worn spots where people would go to pray. One interesting benefit of this practice was that every believer could expect his Christian brothers and sisters to literally keep him on the right path. If a believer began to neglect his daily discipline of prayer, a fellow believer would take him aside and hold him accountable, saying, **'Brother, the grass grows on your path.'** Isn't that a beautiful and gentle way to keep each other on the path of prayer?"^b

This passage provides a pathway to pray for those who want God to help them rebuild their lives as well. We should:

I. **RECOGNIZE** the Character of God (1:5)

Nehemiah 1:5 (NKJV) — And I said: "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, **You who keep Your covenant** and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments,

See also Psalm 145:3; Romans 11:33 and 1 Timothy 6:16

II. **REPENT** with the People of God (1:6-7)

^a Stephen Davey, *Wisdom Commentary Series: Nehemiah* (Apex, NC: Charity House, 2012), 27.

^b Michael Youssef, *God, Help Me Rebuild My Broken World* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2016), 22.

Nehemiah 1:6–7 (NKJV) — 6 please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which **we have sinned against You**. Both my father’s house and **I have sinned**. 7 We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses.

See also Isaiah 6:5

III. **RECEIVE** the Punishment from God (1:8)

Nehemiah 1:8 (NKJV) — Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, ‘**If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations;**

See also Hebrews 12:11

IV. **RECITE** the Promises of God (1:9)

Nehemiah 1:9 (NKJV) — but if you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, yet **I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.**’

V. **REHEARSE** the Faithfulness of God (1:10)

Nehemiah 1:10 (NKJV) — Now these are Your servants and Your people, **whom You have redeemed by Your great power, and by Your strong hand.**

See also Hebrews 11:11 (Sarah considered God faithful), Numbers 23:19 and 1 Samuel 17:32-37 (David)

VI. **REQUEST** the Favor and Blessing from God (1:11)

Nehemiah 1:11 (NKJV) — O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and **let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.**” For I was the king’s cupbearer.

*Got any rivers you think are uncrossable?
Got any mountains you can’t tunnel through?
God specializes in things thought impossible,
He does the things others cannot do.^c*

^c Alfred B. Smith, “Got Any Rivers,” *Making Melody* (St. Louis: Bible Memory Association Inc., 1954), 111.