

REBUILD, RESTORE, REVIVE: “BEYOND BROKEN” PART 2

NEHEMIAH 1:4-11

Pastor Matt Shackelford ■ Grace Bible Church ■ September 15, 2019 ■ Social Media: #GBCRevive

The Person God Uses to Rebuild:

1. Be Available to be used (1-2).
2. Be Broken before the Lord (2-4).
3. Be _____ in prayer (4-11).
 - a. Rejoice in God's _____ (5).
 - b. Take humble _____ for your sin (6).
 - c. Be _____ about your Sin (7).
 - d. Accept the _____ of Sin (8).
 - e. Fall forward to God's _____ (9-10).
 - f. Request God's _____ (11).

Nehemiah 1:4-11

As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. ⁵ And I said, "O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. ⁸ Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹ but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there I will gather them and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.' ¹⁰ They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹ O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." Now I was cupbearer to the king.

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Verse 4 shows us the example of a man who emphasizes his prayer life to the point of extremes: fasting, praying four months straight, praying with tears, etc. How should you and I be more passionate about our prayer life? How can we help each other pursue this?
2. **Read the Quote below.** All the change we see in this passage presupposes that the Lord had done a work in Nehemiah’s heart. How does God’s omnipotence in verse 4 and his petition in verse 11 give us hope for the hard-hearted?
3. In verse 5 and verses 9-10, we see Nehemiah reflect on the character of God. Why are these reflections so vital to our repentance? Notice verse 9 shows that the motivation of God’s mercy is His name. How does the name of God play any part in God’s desire to restore His people?
4. Nehemiah took responsibility for his sin, but he also intercedes for all the people of Israel in verses 5-6. How does this action inform our responsibility to our city, family, coworkers, etc?
5. Nehemiah got very specific with the sins he confessed (v7). How do we get specific in our repentance before God?
6. Nehemiah ends with a desperate cry for God’s help and success (v11). What situation do you need to spend more time crying out for help before God? Notice he highlights that he is not the only one praying in verse 11, “prayer of your Servants.” What does this imply?

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK...

by Paul David Tripp



“If my heart is the source of my sin problem, then lasting change must always travel through the pathway of my heart. It is not enough to alter my behavior or to change my circumstances. Christ transforms people by radically changing their hearts. If the heart doesn’t change, the person’s words and behavior may change temporarily because of an external pressure or incentive. But when the pressure or incentive is removed, the change will disappear.”