

**REPAIRING  
THE WALLS  
NEHEMIAH 1**

**JANUARY  
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### **Nehemiah 1: 1-11 (CSV)**

***The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah: During the month of Chislev in the twentieth year, when I was in the fortress city of Susa, 2 Hanani, one of my brothers, arrived with men from Judah, and I questioned them about Jerusalem and the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile.***

***3 They said to me, “The remnant in the province, who survived the exile, are in great trouble and disgrace. Jerusalem’s wall has been broken down, and its gates have been burned.”***

***4 When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for a number of days, fasting and praying before the God of the heavens.***

***5 I said, Lord, the God of the heavens, the great and awe-inspiring God who keeps his gracious covenant with those who love him and keep his commands, 6 let your eyes be open and your ears be attentive to hear your servant’s prayer that I now pray to you day and night for your servants, the Israelites. I confess the sins we have committed against you. Both I and my father’s family have sinned. 7 We have acted corruptly toward you and have not kept the commands, statutes, and ordinances you gave your servant Moses. 8 Please remember what you commanded your servant Moses: “If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples. 9 But if you return to me and carefully observe my commands, even though your exiles were banished to the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place where I chose to have my name dwell.” 10 They are your servants and your people. You redeemed them by your great power and strong hand. 11 Please, Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant and to that of your servants who delight to revere your name. Give your servant success today, and grant him compassion in the presence of this man.***

***At the time, I was the king’s cupbearer.***

# Repair

- **Step 1: Assessment (vv. 1–3).**
  - **Be open to Truth.**
  - **Face Reality.**
- **Step 2: Recognize your Burden (v. 4).**
- **Step 3: Call on God (vv. 4–11).**
  - **Prayer.**
  - **Remember God's Promises (vv. 8–9).**
- **Step 4: Hope (vv. 10–11)**

# **Step 1: Assessment**

Nehemiah knew the walls around Jerusalem had been compromised, putting the people and the temple at risk. The temple was important because that's where the people worshipped God. In our lives as followers of Christ, we often face issues that threaten to compromise our worship and leaves us spiritually vulnerable. Prayerfully evaluate areas in your life where you see struggle, uncertainty, or discouragement. Examples include sin, attitudes, fear, guilt, unanswered questions, and bitterness.

Write down the area(s) here:

## **Be open to Truth.**

Be realistic about how the issue(s) you wrote down have affected your life. Has sin compounded? Have your relationships suffered? What's the situation? What's the cause? What is it we should be knowing that God already knows? Are we listening to God and the brothers and sisters He has put in our lives? What do you know to be true that you have either forgotten or ignored?

## **Face Reality.**

Rather than turning a blind eye, facing reality was necessary if Nehemiah was to take part in God's restoration. Often, it's easy for us to gloss over the ugly aspects of the picture. As you examine the struggles of your life, be realistic about how your worship has been compromised. What happens if you ignore these struggles? What actions are necessary? What does repentance and confession look like?

**1 John 1: 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

## **Step 2: Recognize your Burden.**

It is exciting and humbling to remember that God's redemption of us through Christ isn't His last word for us. He also has gifted and enables us to partner with Him in His kingdom work!

**Matthew 5: 14-16** "You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Nehemiah had a burden for his people. He wept, mourned, prayed, fasted. Burdens are important. Burdens are the beginning point of ministry. Do you have a burden? The lost, the backslidden, youth, children, senior adults, worship, missions? What breaks your heart? Is your burden found in God's Word?

## **Step 3: Call on God**

### **Prayer.**

Sometimes, we do not know how to pray or are afraid to because the damage to our walls seems so extreme. Writing our thoughts out can help us organize our thoughts and anxieties. Use this section to write out your prayer to your Heavenly father. Confess your sin. Give to God the details of your struggles. Prayerfully evaluate areas in your life where you see struggle, uncertainty, or discouragement. Write it down here:

Tell God of your burden. If you're struggling to find one, ask God to reveal to you a burden.

# **Step 3: Call on God (cont.)**

## **Remember God's Promises**

Take time to open God's Word and see His promises. Write down what these promises say about God? What do they mean to your life?

God promises that He'll reveal himself to those who search for Him. He is not hiding from us! (Deuteronomy 4:7; Deuteronomy 4:29)

God protects His children. (Psalm 121)

God's love never fails. (1 Chronicles 16:34)

The promise of salvation to all who believe in Jesus. (Romans 1:16–17; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

God promises a future that is not defined by our present circumstances. (Romans 8:28)

Comfort in our difficulties (2 Corinthians 1:3–4)

God will finish what He has started in us. (Philippians 1:6)

Peace (Philippians 4:6–7)

Eternal rest (Matthew 11:28–30)

Abundant life (fulfillment) to those who follow Him. (John 10:10)

Eternal security (John 4:14; John 10:28)

## **Step 4: Hope**

Nehemiah's reaction to his burden was not worry or panic. His hope was not in his ability or influence. His only hope was in God. This prompted him to lay his burden down in the presence of God with confidence.

God's calling → God's Promise → True Hope

Brainstorm some ideas on what ministering from your burdens may look like. Don't be afraid to dream big for God's Kingdom and don't limit yourself to just one or two ideas. Be prayerful as you jot down your ideas. Pray about what you write down. Share your ideas with other believers and pray for them about their ideas as well!