

Remember – Nehemiah is about **Building** the **Wall of Testimony**

& for the 1<sup>st</sup> 11 Msg's – we **talked Primarily**  
about the **Physical Wall** of Testimony

But **we've said** thru-out the Entire Book  
that **WE** – are actually - the **LIVING WALL** of **Testimony**

God is building **YOU & I** – Together with all His Church -  
into a **Miraculous** LIVING **Wall of Testimony**

& So – **FIVE Msg's ago** – the **Physical Wall** was **finished**

& **SINCE THEN** – God has been working  
on the **LIVING** **Wall of Testimony**

as He **REBUILDS** the People of Israel  
into the **True** – Lasting – **LIVING** **Testimony**

### **Let's Pray**

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We've **been talking** about the **MARKS** of **Revival**

Let's **remind** ourselves of the **DEFINITION** of **Revival**

**Revival is RESTORING believers**  
***to a Joyful & Right relationship with God***

& we saw Revival begin in NEH - back in Ch 8 V.1  
& the People of God had been "In It" since then

& in our last Msg we spelled out the "MARKS" (Signs) (Evidence)  
of True Revival Occurring

We used all "R" words for our outline

Repentance & Brokenness

Remembering God's Goodness

Recognizing Your True Condition

Renewing – Which I've now changed to RESPONDING

Responding In Obedience

We went over the first 3 MARKS in the last msg  
but I need to REVIEW them – to get us back on track

Maybe we should start by writing them down;

Repent

Remember

Recognize

Respond

These AREN'T "Magic Steps" (Magic Recipe)

These are SOME of the "Marks" – "Evidence" - That you & I are  
***BEING RESTORED to a Joyful & Right relationship with God***



## The FIRST Mark (Sign) - Repentance & Brokenness

### Neh 9:1 - NLT

***1 On October 31*** (24th day of the 7th mo) ***the people assembled again, and this time they fasted and dressed in burlap (sackcloth) and sprinkled dust on their heads.***

**Fasting, Sackcloth, & Ashes** (dust)

are all clear signs of **Repentance**, & **Brokenness**

**Fasting** is an **outward sign** of recognizing -  
our **SPIRITUAL** Need - is greater than our **PHYSICAL** need

**Sackcloth** & **Ashes** is an outward sign of our **HUMILITY**

A sign that **we recognize** that **we** are **LOW**, & **God** is **HIGH**  
that **we** are **HUMBLED** & **He** is **EXALTED**

Remember our **Alan Redpath quote** - re: these Vs's in Ch 9

**Alan Redpath**: ***“God only plants the seed of His life in a soil which has been broken up by repentance.”***

**FIRST Mark of TRUE REVIVAL – REPENTANCE & BROKENNESS**

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## SECOND Mark (Sign) - Remembering God's Goodness

We see this step start in Neh 9:5 – with a CALL TO WORSHIP

### Neh 9:5 - NLT

**5 Then the leaders of the Levites . [names] . . called out to the people: “Stand up and praise the LORD your God, for he lives from everlasting to everlasting!” Then they prayed: “May your glorious name be praised! May it be exalted above all blessing and praise!**

& then – starting in V.6 – we read what is Probably the LONGEST PRAYER in the OT

& remember – This prayer was ALL either direct Scripture, or referencing Scripture

& we talked about how IMPORTANT it is for US to learn how to pray GOD'S WORD in our lives

But the POINT of this long prayer was REMEMBERING God's incredible Goodness to Israel

Which is a HUGE SIGN of us ***BEING RESTORED to a Joyful & Right relationship with God***

So – The 1<sup>st</sup> Two MARKS of True Revival we see here in NEH are:

- #1) Repentance & Brokenness over our Sin
- #2) Remembering God's Goodness to us – in spite of our sin



## THIRD Mark (Sign) - Recognizing our True Condition

After Remembering God's Goodness  
EVEN in the midst of their REBELLION

In Neh 9:36 – the people RECOGNIZE the TRUE CONDITION  
that their Rebellion had put them in

Neh 9:36 - NLT

**36 “So now today we are slaves in the land of plenty that you gave our ancestors for their enjoyment! We are slaves here in this good land.”**

God had RESTORED Israel to the Promised Land  
but they were still SLAVES - to the PERSIAN KING

This is a picture of You & I living in The Place of God's Blessing  
but still being SLAVES to something of our Own MAKING

This is a place of TOTAL HONESTY before God

Where we might say:

*“Lord – I’m sitting here in church, I have a Bible in my house  
& Christian music on my radio . . .  
but the truth is – I’m a SLAVE to a god of my own making”*

maybe it's LUST, or ANGER, or STUFF, or SUCCESS . . .

THAT – is Recognizing your True Condition before God

& It is THRU REPENTANCE & Brokenness,  
& REMEMBERING God's Goodness

That we come to RECOGNIZE our True Current Condition  
& THAT brings us to our FOCUS today

Which is **Responding in Obedience**

You can get the Previous Msg  
to hear the 1<sup>st</sup> THREE Marks in Detail – W-B-M

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#### **FOURTH Mark (Sign) - Responding in Obedience**

This is the Step that Actually brings  
the FRUIT of Revival into our Lives

THIS is the SIGN  
that our lives are actually being TRANSFORMED . . .

By us BEING RESTORED to a Joyful & Right relationship with God

We pick up the FOURTH Mark – in Neh 9:38

#### **Neh 9:38 - NLT**

**38** *The people responded, “In view of all this, we are making a solemn promise and putting it in writing. On this sealed document are the names of our leaders and Levites and priests.”*

First – let’s just FOCUS on the words; “In view of all this”

How FAR BACK does this phrase “In view of all this” – GO ??

Well, certainly it goes back to the  
Miraculous FINISHING of the Wall

**That was back in Nehemiah 6:15–16 - NLT**

***15 So on October 2 the wall was finished—just fifty-two days after we had begun.***

***16 When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.***

We **could go** back **further** – but let's say **THIS** was the **KICK OFF** for this incredible **REVIVAL**

**That – was OCT 2**

Then **IMMEDIATELY** after the Wall was **FINISHED** Nehemiah set up **LEADERS & ROLES** for the people

**THEN – On OCT 8th (1<sup>st</sup> day 7<sup>th</sup> mo) – Just SIX days later was that **GREAT ASSEMBLY** inside the **Water Gate****

where **EZRA Read God's Word** to the people  
& the **LEVITES explained God's Word** to the people

For a **TOTAL** of - **SIX HOURS !!**

**THEN – On OCT 9th (2<sup>nd</sup> day 7<sup>th</sup> mo) – The very Next Day**

The **LEADERS** gathered together with **EZRA**  
to **DIG** even **DEEPER** into God's Word

& they **REALIZED** it was time for the **FEAST OF TABERNACLES**  
which starts on **OCT 22** (15<sup>th</sup> day of 7<sup>th</sup> mo)

& so they **PREPARE** for the **Feast of Tabernacles**  
for the **NEXT 12 DAYS**

& then they **CELEBRATE** the **Feast of Tabernacles**  
for a **TOTAL** of **8 days**

**Taking** them to **OCT 30**

& THEN - on **THE VERY NEXT DAY (Oct 31 in the NLT)**  
we pick up the **MARKS** of **True Revival** - (*where we're at now*)

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Guys - What's **TAKEN** us **SIX** Messages to **COVER**  
**ALL** Occurred in a period of **ONE Solid MONTH**

**From OCT 2** – when the wall was **finished**  
**To OCT 31** – where we're studying **today !!!**

An **INCREDIBLE AMOUNT** of **Spiritual Focus & Activity**  
has **OCCURRED** – in these **29 Days**

& **what I** really **want us to see** – is that;

**REVIVAL** comes from  
a **CONSTANT FOCUS** & **CONSTANT INTERACTION** with **GOD**

This was NOT **JUST** - a **ONE-TIME** *Revival Meeting*

This was NOT **JUST** – a **WEEKEND** *Revival Conference*

The People of God **RECOGNIZED** their **NEED** for **REVIVAL**

& they've **been** – **IN THE PROCESS**

of **BEING RESTORED to a Joyful & Right relationship with God**  
**NON-STOP** - for **ONE MONTH**

For **30 straight days**

Nehemiah has had these people **IMMERSED in God**

& it is that **CONSTANT IMMERSION** in God

that is bringing about this **Transforming REVIVAL**

& that is the **same lesson** we saw *last week*

in our **Topical Message** called - **“ABIDE TO THRIVE”**

**True REVIVAL** – **True TRANSFORMATION** - Can **ONLY COME**

as we **Constantly (& Continually) ABIDE** in Christ

over an **EXTENDED** period of **TIME**

& **THAT** is exactly what we **see happening HERE**

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**OK** – Let’s **FOCUS** on this **FOURTH MARK** of **True Revival**

**Let’s look** at what the people **DID** – **in RESPONSE**

to **ALL** that had happened to them **in this last MONTH**

**It starts in Neh 9:38 - NLT**

**38 The people responded, “In view of all this, we are making a solemn promise and putting it in writing. . . .**

**The ESV tells us - LITERALLY – In V.38**

**38 “Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; . . .**

Because of **ALL THIS** - - - **ALL** that has happened

**in this** incredible **Revival** of God’s People

Because of **ALL THIS** . . . **We are making a firm covenant in writing**

## REVIVAL MUST BRING – A TANGIBLE RESPONSE

True Revival is **NOT** *just* about **EMOTION**  
or even just us **FEELING GOOD** about our *Relationship with God*

True Revival Brings **REAL Tangible RESPONSE !!!**

& that **RESPONSE** is **ALWAYS** – a **RESPONSE of OBEDIENCE**

& Please **HEAR THIS** very closely;

**It Is** an **Ongoing Commitment**

to the **Response of Obedience**

that brings **Permanent Change** in the people of God

**[REPEAT]**

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We're **about to see** the people of God  
take a **HUGE STEP** toward **TRUE, PERMANENT, REVIVAL**

**Coming out of** this **Month-Long IMMERSION** in God

But I need you to **MARK MY WORDS** about a very **critical truth**

**By the end** of the book – which is only **THREE CH'S away . . .**

Some of these **SAME** people – will **FORSAKE**  
this **RESPONSE OF OBEDIENCE** they're about to make

& they will go **RIGHT BACK** to living in **REBELLION** to God  
**Just like** they were **BEFORE** the Revival

**My point is THIS:**

This **INITIAL** *Response of Obedience* is **GREAT . . . HOWEVER**

**It Is** an **Ongoing Commitment**

to the **Response of Obedience**

that brings **Permanent Change** in the people of God

**Let's Remember** that in our **OWN LIVES**

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Alright – Let's look at **WHO signed** this **“COVENANT DOCUMENT”**

Promising **OBEDIENCE** to God

**at the end of Neh 9:38 - NLT**

***38 . . . On this sealed document are the names of our leaders and Levites and priests.”***

The **LEADERS** always **go first**

If **you** are a **leader** today (*of a family for instance*)

**If you won't** commit to **follow God** – **PLEASE**

**Don't expect** your family to commit to **follow God**

***LEADERS GO FIRST***

**& so** – as we **go** into **CH 10** – we read in **Vs. 1**

**Neh 10:1 - NLT**

***1 The document was ratified and sealed with the following names:  
The governor: Nehemiah son of Hacaliah, and also Zedekiah.***

The **first TWO** to sign this covenant – were the **TOP TWO**

**& then continuing - V. 2 says**

**2 The following priests: . . .**

& then **21 PRIESTS** are listed - as **signors** of this covenant

**& then V. 9 says**

**9 The following Levites: . . .**

& then **17 LEVITES** are listed as **signors** of the covenant

**& then V. 14**

**14 The following leaders: . . .**

These would be “**Leaders of the People**” or “**Family Leaders**” –  
**44** of them signed the covenant - **on behalf** of the people

**& then we read in Neh 10:28-29 – NLT**

***28 Then the rest of the people—the priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers, Temple servants, and all who had separated themselves from the pagan people of the land in order to obey the Law of God, together with their wives, sons, daughters, and all who were old enough to understand—***

***29 joined their leaders and bound themselves with an oath. They swore a curse on themselves if they failed to obey the Law of God as issued by his servant Moses. They solemnly promised to carefully follow all the commands, regulations, and decrees of the Lord our Lord:***

That’s **84 leaders** who **seal** this **covenant with God**  
**on behalf** of all the **people**

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& so - The **FOURTH MARK** of **True Revival** is  
**RESPONDING IN OBEDIENCE**

But Please Remember

it is ONLY by CONTINUING in that RESPONSE  
that True, Permanent, Transformation Takes Place

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So – Let’s see what Israel’s “Response of Obedience”  
Actually WAS

Nehemiah 10:30 - NLT

*30 “We promise not to let our daughters marry the pagan people of the land, and not to let our sons marry their daughters.*

There is clearly the idea here of NOT being “Unequally Yoked”

But there was also a real problem during Nehemiah’s time  
about LAND OWNERSHIP being LOST thru these Inter-Marriages

& the people of God suffering because of it

& so they make a Covenant  
to stop HURTING the people of God by doing this

Next – in Nehemiah 10:31 - NLT

*31 “We also promise that if the people of the land should bring any merchandise or grain to be sold on the Sabbath or on any other holy day, we will refuse to buy it. Every seventh year we will let our land rest, and we will cancel all debts owed to us.*

Do you see here – a Commitment . . .  
to Hold their Relationship with the Lord - ABOVE their desire  
to Make Money, Do Business, & even Be Productive

This is the core truth behind the SABBATH commands

& so the people Renew their Covenant  
to spend the Sabbath WITH the Lord - & FOR the Lord

& to NOT focus on GAIN for themselves  
on either the Sabbath DAY – or the Sabbath YEAR

This commitment to the Sabbath – was a HUGE DEAL

Because God's people in Nehemiah's time  
we're IN THE MIDST of very DIFFICULT economic times  
(*sound familiar to anyone?*)

But instead of saying – “*You know, I'll have to wait to give to God,  
or focus on God, until times get a little better . . .*”

INSTEAD – they made a Commitment to “Put Aside”  
their OWN Gain on the Sabbath - & focus completely on the LORD

& this Renewed Commitment to Keep the Sabbath

actually BEGINS the Response of Obedience  
that Centers around SACRIFICIAL GIVING – that cont's from here

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We have got to ACCEPT this very Crucial Truth  
about our “Being Right” with God

Every commitment to GET or to BE “Right With God”  
involves some form of “Sacrificial Giving”

Jack Hayford wrote a WONDERFUL book  
called “The Key To Everything”

& in that book he explains why the KEY TO EVERYTHING is found in the Word - "GIVE"

& He's NOT JUST talking - Financially but in GIVING – in every area of our lives

& THAT is exactly what we see here as the People of God RESPOND IN OBEDIENCE

NOTE: - Basically, every time the NLT says "TEMPLE" the ESV says "House of our God"

continuing - Neh 10:32–33 - NLT

*32 "In addition, we promise to obey the command to pay the annual Temple tax of one-eighth of an ounce of silver for the care of the Temple of our God.*

*33 This will provide for the Bread of the Presence; for the regular grain offerings and burnt offerings; for the offerings on the Sabbaths, the new moon celebrations, and the annual festivals; for the holy offerings; and for the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel. It will provide for everything necessary for the work of the Temple of our God.*

Not only are God's people - OBEYING the command to GIVE

But their Giving provides "Tangibly"  
*for everything necessary for the work of the Temple of God*

Even tho they're in Very Difficult Times

They desire to GIVE – to Provide for Temple of God

& - It's NOT ONLY Giving Financially

But also – GIVING of their TIME & EFFORT

Neh 10:34 - NLT

**34 “We have cast sacred lots to determine when—at regular times each year—the families of the priests, Levites, and the common people should bring wood to God’s Temple to be burned on the altar of the Lord our God, as is written in the Law.**

It’s Interesting to Note – BEFORE the Exile (in the Previous Temple) the temple STAFF simply purchased wood for the offerings

But now – in much leaner times  
& with a Temple that is way UNDERSTAFFED

the families of Israel TOOK TURNS bringing wood for the offerings

This means a lot to me – because many churches (this one included) don’t have the staff – or the money

to simply PAY FOR the things, or people,  
necessary for the operating of the church

& so we look to the families of the church to “step-up”  
& carry the Load (so to speak) – to meet the needs of the church

So (obviously) – I LOVE to see this here

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### Continuing their Giving - Neh 10:35–36 - NLT

**35 “We promise to bring the first part of every harvest to the Lord’s Temple year after year—whether it be a crop from the soil or from our fruit trees.**

**36 We agree to give God our oldest sons and the firstborn of all our herds and flocks, as prescribed in the Law. We will present them to the priests who minister in the Temple of our God.**

This has been God’s order since CAIN & ABLE

Offering God the **FIRST FRUITS** of all that we have  
is **acknowledging** that **ALL** we have - has come **FROM HIM**

& we **return** the **FIRST-FRUITS** - as an **Act of Faith**  
**that God** will continue to **PROVIDE** abundantly for us

& if you'll **just ASK** somebody who's **actually doing this**  
I **guarantee** they will **tell you . . .**

That God **DOES PROVIDE** - **Miraculously**

**In Fact** – they get **more** & more **anxious**  
to **Give God** His **Portion** of everything He gives them

Because they are **Experiencing** Gods **PROVISION**  
**Thru** their **OBEDIENCE**

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Now – as far as **Giving** God our “**OLDEST SONS**” as an offering

Actually – the **First-Born sons**, and some **animals**  
were **REDEEMED** before the Lord

Which **means** that some **OTHER Valuable Consideration** was given  
to **REDEEM** what **otherwise** should've been **GIVEN** to the Lord

**The point** is - - **ALL** that God has **given** us  
**COMES from** Him - & **BELONGS to** Him

& so we **GIVE BACK** the **FIRST PORTION** of everything  
as an “**Acknowledgement**” of that truth of God - &  
as an **Act** of **WORSHIP**

& it **ALWAYS** *Transforms* us – It **ALWAYS** *Does*  
**when** we **DO IT**

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Now - from **Vs.37** thru **V.39** - I really want you to see how much

**GIVING** is the **SIGN** (The Proof)  
of the People's **Renewed Commitment** to God

**Neh 10:37–39 - NLT**

***37 We will store the produce in the storerooms of the Temple of our God. We will bring the best of our flour and other grain offerings, the best of our fruit, and the best of our new wine and olive oil. And we promise to bring to the Levites a tenth of everything our land produces, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our rural towns.***

***38 “A priest—a descendant of Aaron—will be with the Levites as they receive these tithes. And a tenth of all that is collected as tithes will be delivered by the Levites to the Temple of our God and placed in the storerooms.***

***39 The people and the Levites must bring these offerings of grain, new wine, and olive oil to the storerooms and place them in the sacred containers near the ministering priests, the gatekeepers, and the singers. “We promise together not to neglect the Temple of our God.”***

**LOOK** at that Last Sentence;

***“We promise together not to neglect the Temple of our God.”***

**ESV** – ***“We will not neglect the house of our God”***

**NOT NEGLECTING** the Place of Worship

takes up **ALL BUT ONE** of these ***“Responses of Obedience”***

**We** (as a Christian Culture) – Have **come to EXPECT**

That God's Place of Worship  
is supposed to GIVE US Something

The truth is (*gently*) – that MOST PEOPLE come to God's House  
TO RECEIVE – Not to GIVE

But what we see in Scripture is  
God's House is a place for us – TO GIVE, & TO WORSHIP

& the Miracle is – when we come to GIVE & to WORSHIP  
God Truly CHANGES our Lives - in the PROCESS

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So let me ENCOURAGE you

GIVING – Not RECEIVING  
is the HIGHEST MARK (Sign) of True Revival

GIVING Financially

GIVING of your Time & Effort - & your Focus

GIVING Grace & Mercy to those in your life

GIVING – In Obedience to God  
is the HIGHEST MARK (Sign) of True Revival

Responding to God in Obedience – ALWAYS INVOLVES  
Some Sort – of SACRIFICIAL GIVING

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So Maybe you're **LOOKING** for  
**MARKS** of **TRUE REVIVAL** in **YOUR LIFE**

Do you see;

**Repentance & Brokenness**

**Remembering God's Goodness**

**Recognizing Your True Condition**

**Responding In Obedience** – Noted especially by **Sacrificial Giving**

**If NOT** – You **CAN** see those **MARKS**

By **IMMERSING YOURSELF** in the things of God  
over an **Extended period** of Time

**Just like Israel** did here in **NEH**

**Let's Pray**