

Living out Your **FAITH**

Confront Your Crisis through Faith, 1:1-11

Definition of a crisis

- An unstable condition, as in political, social, or economic affairs, involving an impending, abrupt or decisive change
- An emotionally stressful even or traumatic change in a person's life
- A point in a story or drama when a conflict reaches its highest tension and must be resolved



What We Know about Crises

- You are preparing for a crisis
- You are in the middle of a crisis
- You are coming out of a crisis



What was Israel's Crisis?

- Nehemiah's situation, 1:1-2
 - He was cupbearer to Artaxerxes
 - He was of noble birth from line of Judah
 - He was appointed governor of Judah and led the Jews to rebuild the wall
- The returning Jewish exiles, 1:3
 - 70 year captivity in Babylon (608-538)
 - Jerusalem was completely destroyed
 - Ezra was the spiritual leader but they needed someone to rebuild the walls



Wrong Ways to Handle a Crisis?

- Blame God for the crisis
- Believe that God cannot do anything about the crisis
- Give up in despair
- Take matters into your own hands



Right Way to Handle a Crisis?

- Take ownership of the crisis, 1:4
 - Acknowledge your pain is real
 - Fast and pray
- Seek God for help, 1:5-6a
- Confess any sin in your life, 1:6-10
 - Remember God's covenant of obedience
 - Remember what God requires of His children
- Face the crisis head on with God's help, 1:11



Bottom Line

God uses crisis to draw you closer to Him, build character, and use you to help others who are hurting

