

## REBUILD – The Journey from Brokenness to Restoration

### Part One: From Passive Resignation to Active Restoration.

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#### **The places of our greatest brokenness can become places of greatest restoration.**

God can take what is broken in our lives and world and promises restoration as we rebuild with him.

**Isaiah 61:4 (NIV)** - <sup>4</sup> *They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.*

#### **How do we properly deal with what is broken at times when we feel powerless to do anything about it?**

**The issue:** when a passive resignation of life sets rather than an active hope to rebuild what is broken.

In the history of the Jewish people where they were living in a city with broken walls, a man named Nehemiah responded...

#### **Nehemiah 1:1–3 (NIV)**

*The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:*

*In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, <sup>2</sup> Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.*

<sup>3</sup> *They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”*

#### **How do we move from living with “broken walls” to taking steps of rebuilding our lives and world?**

**The prayerful response of Nehemiah positioned him to rebuild what was broken and needed restoration.**

## HOW TO MOVE FROM PASSIVE RESIGNATION TO ACTIVE RESTORATION

### **Nehemiah 1:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> *When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup> Then I said:*

*“Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, <sup>6</sup> let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you. <sup>7</sup> We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.*

#### 1. Lament the brokenness

- *Confessing failure – personal and collective*
- *The root cause of brokenness is departing from God’s design for us in relationship to him.*

- *He fasted, prayed repented.*

***But what else do we see...***

**Nehemiah 1:8-10**

<sup>8</sup> *“Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations,<sup>9</sup> but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.’*

<sup>10</sup> *“They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.*

## **2. Regain Hope in God’s Faithfulness**

- *We can’t restore ourselves, but God can.*
- *The story isn’t over. Maintain hope.*

***What else do we see...***

**Nehemiah 1: 11**

<sup>11</sup> *Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.” I was cupbearer to the king.*

## **3. Seek Favour in what is needed.**

- *In prayer, humility, and dependency, we can receive the favour we need from God and others to do our part in rebuilding.*

## **CONCLUSION:**

**How does the need for “rebuilding walls” apply to our lives?**

**Proverbs 25:28 (NIV) - <sup>28</sup>** Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.

**Self-control** : taking action and responding appropriately.

**Walls:** determining what you let in and out of your life, and have proper boundaries for your life and the ones you love.

There is mercy and hope for everyone here today. It’s found in Jesus. Just as Nehemiah sought favour from the king, favour and grace come through trusting in Jesus as King.