

**Happy Mothers Day! I just want to say thank you to all the Moms. You ladies are truly amazing! We are responsible for shaping and molding of the generations to come. Thats huge responsibility so with that should come honor. So thank you for doing your best to love on and teach the next generation what it means to be Godly and live a life that is dedicated to the Lord.**

Who was Nehemiah?

Nehemiah 1:3

**3** 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.” This grieved Nehemiah and one day while he was serving the king. The king called him out because he had such a long face.

The book of Nehemiah shows us the kind of significant impact one individual can have on a nation. Nehemiah served in secular offices, using his position to bring back to the Jews order, stability, and proper focus on God.

\*Do you feel you must be “in ministry” in order to serve God? Be encouraged; He is not limited by your vocation. In fact, God has placed you where you are for a purpose.

May we have this attitude about our work: Colossians 3:17 “Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Nehemiah 8:1-7 (This is after the wall has been rebuilt)

**1** All the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. **2** So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the

priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. 3 He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. 4 Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam. 5 Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. 6 Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. 7 The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. 8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear<sup>[a]</sup> and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. 9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." **For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.**

10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, **for the joy of the Lord is your strength.**" 11 The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve." 12 Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

Nehemiah 8:10b Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

In this service in the book of Nehemiah during the repentance the Lord speaks and says Do not grieve, **for the joy of the Lord is your strength.**” God knows and understand we need strength. Strength for the battle and trials life throws at us. That is why I believe it is one of the very first things we experience in our walk with Him.

James 1:2-3 (NIV)

**Trials and Temptations**

**2** Consider it pure **joy**, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

Joy is one of the fruits of the spirit.

[Galatians 5](#): "But the fruit of the Spirit is [love](#), [joy](#), [peace](#), [patience](#), [kindness](#), [goodness](#), [faithfulness](#), [gentleness](#), and [self-control](#)."<sup>[2]</sup>

Matthew 11:28 is a good example of how to receive these deposits from the Holy Spirit. Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest

David understood this... in Psalm 51 David’s is crying out for forgiveness after his sin with Bathsheba

Psalm 51:12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

**Psalm 28:7**

**7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. Are you in need of Joy?...strength? Come to the Lord.**

**Joy is defined as:**

**Noun** 1. a feeling of great pleasure and happiness. "tears of joy"

**Verb** 2. rejoice.

Maybe this feeling of great pleasure.. is His delight in us. With our repentant hearts. He is able to literally deposit a piece of himself in us.

We know He himself needed Joy.

**Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)** *2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.* **For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

If Jesus himself needed Joy to endure the cross how much more do we.