

Rebuilding: Moving into a New Story

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I. The Rebuilder's Prayer:

Nehemiah 1:5-11

1. The Address — Who God Is (Neh 1:5-6)

Main Thought: Nehemiah sees God as both:

- capable ("great and awesome God")
- connected ("who keeps his covenant of love...hear my prayer")

"What comes to our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us." A.W. Tozer

Heb 4:16; 1 Peter 5:7

2. The Confession — Owning Our Part (Neh 1:6-7)

Main Thought: Rebuilding requires honesty. Nehemiah does not blame only previous generations — he includes himself.

Psa 139:23-24 *Search me, O God, and know my heart! Test me and know my thoughts! 4 And see if there be any grievous (offensive) way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*

Pro 20:9 *Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin"?*

1 John 1:2-10; Psalm 51; Luke 15:21

3. The Return — Restorative Grace (Neh 1:8-9)

Main Thought: God delights in restoring returning people.

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

Luke 15:21-24

4. The Ask — "Grant Me Favor" (Neh 1:11)

Main Thought: Nehemiah knows he cannot rebuild in his own strength.

II. From rubble to rebuilding.

Four common experiences:

1. Grieve Your Losses

Main Idea: Healthy rebuilding begins by honestly grieving what has been lost.

Nehemiah's Response

When Nehemiah hears the condition of Jerusalem:

- he sits down
- weeps
- mourns
- fasts
- prays for weeks

He allows himself to feel sadness instead of suppressing it.

Key Takeaway: Sometimes we cannot move hopefully into the future because we have not adequately dealt with the past.

2 Cor 7:10 *Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. Godly sorrow brings God Restorative Grace*

Mat 11:28-30 *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

Ps 34:18-19 *The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. 19 The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all;*