

November 17 & 18, 2018



1. Problem – Israel sinned.
2. Promise – They would return.
3. Person – Nehemiah
4. People – Returned and Labored
5. Perseverance – Opposition
6. Providence – God was in it all.

The Great Prayers of Nehemiah

Nehemiah Chapters 1, 9-10

1. Prayers from the broken heart of a Person

Nehemiah 1:4 *When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. 5 Then I said...*

2. Prayers of a united group of People

Nehemiah 9:3 *They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the LORD their God.*

3. Prayers remembering Providence

Nehemiah 9:6-7 *“You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you. 7 You are the LORD God, who chose Abram...”*

4. Prayers according to Promises

Nehemiah 9:8 *“You found his heart faithful to you, and you made a covenant with him...”*

5. Prayers confessing our Problems

Nehemiah 9:33 *“In all that has happened to us, you have remained righteous; you have acted faithfully, while we acted wickedly.”*

6. Prayers asking for Perseverance

Nehemiah 10:28-29 *“The rest of the people...now join their fellow Israelites the nobles, and bind themselves with a curse and an oath to follow the Law of God...”*

Keys to Powerful Prayer

1. Powerful prayer is consistent.
2. Powerful prayer looks back as much as it looks forward.
3. Powerful prayer knows there are both God's Promises and God's Providence.
4. Powerful prayer will:

Praise – I praise and thank you.

Repent – Forgive me

Ask – Give me what I need

Yield – You do what You want.

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker

1. What does prayer look like in your life? Is it something done daily, before meals or bedtime or during times of struggles?

Digging Deeper

1. Have you discovered what God has put on your heart to do? Being open about how God is working in your life is an encouragement to those in your group. If a next step has been revealed, share that as well.
2. Review as many of the weekly themes of Nehemiah as you can remember. Hint: they all began with "P." Share

with your group any highlights from the Nehemiah sermon series.

3. What do you think is the purpose of prayer?
4. Is there a time when you knew God clearly answered your prayer? What brought you to that assurance?
5. Is there a situation that seemed God chose not to answer or was delayed in answering? How did that impact your relationship with God?
6. Nehemiah modeled a life of consistent prayer. What are steps you can take to begin a more consistent prayer life?
7. Which letter of the P.R.A.Y. do you find yourself focusing on the most?

Live it Out

1. This week, how can you be more purposeful incorporating the other letters of P.R.A.Y. in your prayers? Next week be prepared to share how this impacted you or your relationship with God.

