

Q: Have you ever asked God for forgiveness?

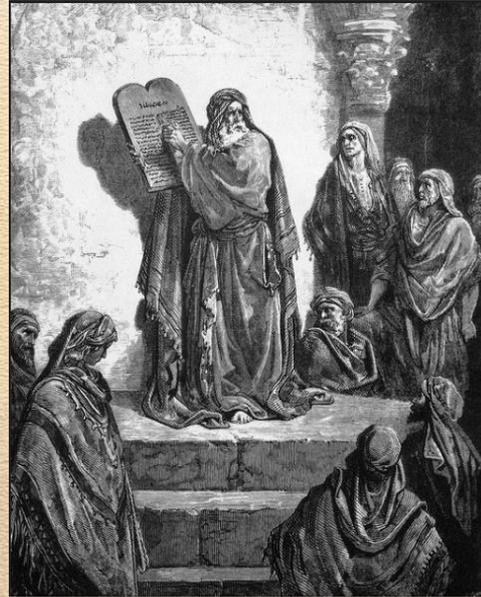
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In practice, how do we respond to God's discipline for our sins?

Progress





Obstacles

9:36 **“But see, we are slaves today, slaves in the land you gave our ancestors so they could eat its fruit and the other good things it produces.... Because of our sins, its abundant harvest goes to the kings you have placed over us.”**

Nehemiah 9–10

Learning from Past Mistakes

Renewed Commitment to God

Neh. 9:1 On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and putting dust on their heads. Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the sins of their ancestors.

9:5 “Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. 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.”

“You are the LORD God, who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and named him Abraham. You found his heart faithful to you, and you made a covenant with him to give to his descendants the land.”

9:32 **“Now therefore, our God, the great God, mighty and awesome, who keeps his covenant of love, do not let all this hardship seem trifling in your eyes—the hardship that has come on us, on our kings and leaders, on our priests and prophets, on our ancestors and all your people, from the days of the kings of Assyria until today. In all that has happened to us, you have remained righteous; you have acted faithfully, while we acted wickedly.”**

9:36 “But see, we are slaves today, slaves in the land you gave our ancestors so they could eat its fruit and the other good things it produces. Because of our sins, its abundant harvest goes to the kings you have placed over us. They rule over our bodies and our cattle as they please. We are in great distress.”

“In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and our leaders, our Levites and our priests are affixing their seals to it.”

Look Backward

Cycles of Blessings & Rejections (9:5–31)

God:

[a] Creator & Covenant (5–8)

[b] Savior (9–16)

[c] Generous & Patient (16–26)

[d] Warns & Disciplines (26–31)

Israel:

[a] Worship & Faithful

[b–c] Arrogant, stubborn

[d] Didn't learn; returned
to evil

Look Forward

- **Written commitment of whole community (10:1–29)**
- **Submission to all of the Law and its disciplines (10:29)**
- **Resist specific temptations in their setting (10:31–39)**
 - **Keep marriage within God's people**
 - **Keep Sabbath holy, separate from business**
 - **Sustained support of Temple services with tithes and supplies**

Lessons from the Past

- **Learn from similar stories in Scripture (9:35)**
- **Don't take God for granted**
- **Confession by "we" and "I" (10:28)**
- **Commitment to God includes separation from world**
- **Focus on ATTITUDE during blessing and discipline (James 1:15; Heb. 12:7)**
- **Recognize specific sins of our culture**

Confession & Renewal



- **Lean into God's steadfast love (9:32)**
- **When was God's last discipline? Your last confession?**
- **To what past Church sins is FHBC vulnerable?**
- **What is your plan? Our plan?**

At the Lord's Table



- * **In Remembrance of Me**
(1 Cor. 11:24)
- * **Participation in His blood and body** (1 Cor. 10:16)
- * **Examine yourselves**
(1 Cor. 11:28)

Confession and Renewal from 1 John

God, this is Your command: to believe in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as You commanded us.

But our love for You and Your people is not perfected. We have loved the world and the things in the world. We have not loved our brothers and sisters, whom we see. In this, we have not loved You whom we have not seen.

We confess our sins because You are faithful and just and will forgive us our sins. Please purify us from all unrighteousness and restore us to Your fellowship.

(1 John 3:23 ; 4:2; 2:15; 1:7,9)