



## MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **Renewed by the Word**  
Series: **Moving Forward Together**  
Text: **Nehemiah 8**  
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **February 1, 2026**

### THE WALLS ARE FINISHED IN NEHEMIAH 6—BUT GOD IS NOT DONE YET.

#### 1. RENEWAL BEGINS WHEN PEOPLE ARE \_\_\_\_\_ FOR GOD'S WORD!

*When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, **all the people assembled as one man in the square** before the Water Gate. They told **Ezra** the scribe **to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses**, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. (Ne 7:73–8:1).*

*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. (Ne 8:2–3).*

#### 2. GOD'S WORD DESERVES \_\_\_\_\_

*Ezra the teacher of the Law **stood on a high wooden platform** built for the occasion. (Ne 8:4).*

***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**. (Ne 8:5–6).*

#### THE BIBLE IS DIVINELY \_\_\_\_\_, AUTHORITATIVE AND DEEPLY PERSONAL!

***All Scripture is God-breathed** and is **useful** for **teaching, rebuking, correcting and training** in righteousness, so that the man of God may be **thoroughly equipped** for every good work. (2 Ti 3:16–17).*

*Until I come, devote yourself to **the public reading of Scripture**, to preaching and to teaching (1 Ti 4:13).*

### 3. GOD'S WORD MUST BE \_\_\_\_\_ TO BE OBEYED

The Levites—**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 and giving the meaning so that the people understood** what was being read. (Ne 8:7–8).

**Do not merely listen to the word**, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says**. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But **the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom**, and **continues to do this**, not forgetting what he has heard, **but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does**. (Jas 1:22–25).

### 4. GOD'S WORD CONFRONTS \_\_\_\_\_ AND PRODUCES \_\_\_\_\_

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. (Ne 8:9).

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.**” (Ne 8:10).

This joy is not \_\_\_\_\_ of sin—it is confidence in God's grace.

They stood in their places and **confessed their sins and the sins of their ancestors**. 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 (Ne 9:2–3).

### 5. GOD'S WORD CREATES A JOYFUL, \_\_\_\_\_, UNITED COMMUNITY

On the second day of the month, the **heads of all the families**, along with **the priests** and the Levites, **gathered around Ezra the teacher to give attention to the words of the Law**. 14 They **found written in the Law**, which the LORD had commanded through Moses, that the Israelites were to live in temporary shelters during the festival of the seventh month 15 and that **they should proclaim this word and spread it throughout their towns and in Jerusalem**. (Ne 8:13–15).

The whole company that had returned from exile built temporary shelters and lived in them. From the days of Joshua son of Nun until that day, the Israelites had not celebrated it like this. **And their joy was very great**. (Ne 8:17).

- When God's Word is \_\_\_\_\_ → unity follows.
- When God's Word is \_\_\_\_\_ → obedience grows.
- When God's Word is \_\_\_\_\_ → joy becomes our strength.