

Encounter Church
Sunday October 12, 2025

Together We Build
Turning Problems into Possibilities

INTRODUCTION: As we continue with this series from the Book of Nehemiah, I want us to notice the verse that I believe sets the tone for the Book of Nehemiah. I love this verse and believe that it's applicable for today.

Nehemiah 2:20 (NKJV)- "So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore, we His servants will arise and build,..."

"The God of Heaven." The all powerful, all-knowing, ever-present God! *"He will prosper us!"*

Today we continue the series, "Together We Build." We continue with a message titled, "Turning Problems into Possibilities."

ANYBODY HERE HAVE ANY PROBLEMS LATELY? WELL CONGRATULATIONS!

A Child of God is not someone who sees a problem in every opportunity, but to the contrary, she or he is one who sees an opportunity in every problem!

WE SEE THIS IN THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH.

THREE STEPS TO TURNING YOUR PROBLEMS TO POSSIBILITY

1. **Recognize**

Nehemiah 1:1-3 (NLT) "The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."

Nehemiah was living in another location and recognized that the Children of Israel living in Jerusalem had a problem!

Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem was important for the Jews. The wall provided physical protection from enemies. It restored their dignity and security.

The absence of walls left them vulnerable and disgraced.

HAD THE PEOPLE LIVING IN JERUSALEM LEARNED TO LIVE WITH THE BROKEN-DOWN WALLS? HAD THEY JUST ACCEPTED IT. IT IS WHAT IT IS!

DID THEY NOT RECOGNIZE THEY WERE DISGRACED AND VULNERABLE. THEY WERE JUST LIVING A DEFEATED LIFE. THE ENEMY HAD SET UP CAMP AMONG THEM!

THE ENEMY HAD READY ACCESS INTO THIER LIVES!

Nehemiah heard about the broken-down walls and gates to the city that had been burned and he *recognized a problem!*

Do I recognize the problem the enemies using to gain access into my marriage? My home. My kids and grandkids?

Do I recognize the problem the enemy is using to set up camp in my finances?

Do I recognize the issues in my personal life that giving the enemy access into my life?

Do I recognize the enemy at work in our city, state, nation?

1 Peter 5:8- (NLT) “Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.”

HERE’S THE GOOD NEWS: When you recognize the problem, it’s the first step to turning that problem into possibility. THEN YOU:

2. Agonize

If you want to turn your problems into possibilities not only, do you *recognize* the problem, but you also must *agonize*.

Nehemiah 1:4- (NLT) “When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.”

a. This was a prayer of Contrition.

Do I weep over the problems I see in the world? Do I weep over my personal problems. Is my heart broken over the lost going to hell?

Matthew 24:12 (TPT)- “There will be such an increase of the sin of lawlessness that those whose hearts once burned with passion for God and others will grow cold.”

b. There was a prayer of Confession.

Nehemiah 1:6- (NLT) “listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned!”

Notice his confession was both national and personal.

We must pray for our city. We must pray for our state and nation.

But that is no good if we don't personally repent. HAVE YOU REPENTED?

c. There was a prayer of Confidence.

Nehemiah 1:8-10 (NLT) “Please remember what you told your servant Moses: ‘If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored.’

“The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants.”

Do you see what Nehemiah is doing here. He saying, “God, do you remember what you said in your Word? Do you remember those promises you made in your Word God? I’m holding you to your promises God!

Someone once said, “*Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance; it is laying hold of His willingness!*”

Now my friend, it’s not enough to pray the prayer of *contrition, confession and confidence* if there’s not this following prayer:

d. There was a prayer of Commitment.

Nehemiah 1:11 (NLT)- “O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me. In those days I was the king’s cupbearer.”

Nehemiah had to be committed FROM THE BEGINNING!

No cupbearer, or no servant at all, for that matter, would dare to come into the presence of a king with a sad face. That would rain on the king’s parade.

It was an unforgivable sin, punishable by death!

Nehemiah had a job of luxury. He was so far removed from the poverty and the degradation, and the fallen walls.

He was in a little place of security. His little warm nest.

BUT WHEN HE HEARD ABOUT THE WALLS. HE COULDN’T STAY THERE. HE RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEM AND THEN HE AGONIZED.

CONCLUSION: Did you know there was time when God recognized a problem. Fallen humanity. He recognized there was only one way his lost children could have relationship with him.

THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM. JESUS! DID YOU KNOW JESUS AGONIZED?

Mark 14:32-34 (NLT)- “They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said, “Sit here while I go and pray.” He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU THROUGH THIS MESSAGE?