

Title: The Need of Prayer

Text: Nehemiah 1:1-11

Take your Bibles and turn to the book of Nehemiah. The theme of Nehemiah as we are going to look at it, is VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING. And one might ask: What does that mean? What is victorious christian living?

I am going to approach our study of Nehemiah in answering that question. In fact all the messages are so constructed to look at victorious christian living as living above your circumstances.

I have been very much aware for some time, now, that there is a mode among our people of depression and discouragement. I have seen this in many different ways. In my own life and in the life of others. Just wandering about the trend of things in our church. And I have seen this trend expanding and people getting discouraged and depressed over all that is going on. Or, all that they think is going on concerning their circumstances..

And so I can hardly wait to start Nehemiah. For my own good and yours. Because I believe in Nehemiah there are principles outlined for us, here, that show us how to live above our circumstance. To have the joy of the Lord, to have true Christian victory, no matter what we are facing. I

And I hope that you will be with me for each of these messages. And today is no exception. We are dealing with what James 5:13 tells us to do when we are emotional afflicted. It says "let us pray."

When we face any challenge or any circumstance that seems to great to cop with, the Bible has already told us what to do. And that is to pray.

And the quicky before you go to bed will not help. The little quicky at dinner will not help, either. It is not throwing one up to God hoping that then in turn He will be with you and bless you and overcome things for you. We are going to talk about something more important than that. And that is HOW TO PRAY AS A CHRISTIAN. As Paul said, "Without ceasing." Or, as Jesus said, "Men, ought always to pray and not to faint."

Nehemiah chapter one begins our study. And it begins with a tremendous example of prayer.

(Read 1:1-11)

Father, we thank you, again, for your Word. And we pray that you would teach us concerning the need of prayer in order to have victory over our circumstances. To live above them. And through we experience the greatest of trials, yet, we know the joy of the Lord. The wonderful plan of God as it unfolds for us. And we can rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him.

Father, I pray that you will deal with us, today, about the need of prayer. ~~Yes~~ I ask it in Jesus name,.....Amen.

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We need to begin with just a brief word about the historical background about this book.

The first captivity of Judah really began around 606 B.C. The destruction of Jerselam which was another time that Jews were taken into captivity. There were actually three such times. But in 586 B.C. Jerselam was destroyed. It was a fulfillment of prophecy. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, completely ~~destroyed~~ destroyed Jerusalem. And the Jews were taken into captivity.

In 536 B.C. 50 thousand Jews returned to Palestine under the leadership of Zerubbabel. They set out to rebuild the Temple, and the walls of Jerselam. God raised up two prophets: Haggai and Zechariah to lead the people in this rebuilding process. And under the leadership of these two prophets the people completed the rebuilding of the temple in 516 B.C.. But the walls of Jerselam still needed rebuilding.

In 458 B.C. Ezra, the scribe and priest, returned to Palestine. And he admonished the people. 14 years later, around 444 B.C. in the 20th year of King Artaxerxes, according to Nehemiah 2:1, Nehemiah came back to the land under a commandment that was given to him by the Persian King to restore the walls of Jerselam. That is the commandment, by the way, that is predicted in Daniel 9:24. It is the beginning of the 70 weeks of Daniel. The commandment to restore the walls of Jerselam in troubled times.

So, the story of Nehemiah from a historical point of view is really the last in the Scriptures. It is the last book of the Bible chronologically. And the date would be around 444 B.C.

only

By the way, the meaning of the name "Nehemiah" is "the Lord is my comfort."

And if there was ever a book that illustrated our need of comfort in the midst of trial and discouragement and circumstance of life, it is certainly this book. So, how fitting and how beautiful the spirit of God's ministry as the man who wrote the book, his name means "the Comfort of the Lord." We all need that comfort in the midst of our circumstances.

OK
looking at
at
(1A) We are ~~talking~~ today about the need of prayer. And I want us to look at this need, first of all, in the explanation of those who returned ~~from~~ Judah. This is found in Verses 1-3. This explanation of those who came back to Judah ~~came to~~ Nehemiah explained the tremendous need of prayer. I wish that most of us in hearing such circumstances would be moved and motivated to prayer as Nehemiah was.

Now, there are a couple of things that I want you to see.

This explanation based
(1B) First, ~~it~~ was ~~based~~ upon the concern of Nehemiah, himself. Now, take this down. You will never be motivated to pray for conditions, *or people* ~~that~~ *or people that* unless that motivation arises out of the concern and compassion of your heart. People who are not walking with the Lord are not going to pray. People who are not in touch with Christ are not going to ~~be~~ be concerned. No matter how great is the *need or* circumstances. It is very important that we understand that the need of prayer, as evidenced by this story, was because Nehemiah had a sensitive heart. He responded to the needs of people through prayer because he was concerned.

And I noticed that there are two areas of his concern.

Before, we look at that let me mention that the man who told Nehemiah was one of his brothers. Vs 2 says "Han'ani".....

that
I was again impressed with his brother. His brother's name means "to show mercy"... And the point that I believe is here is that his own brother's name characterizes how his brother came and told him about the situation. His heart was concerned. He has a compassionate heart.

Names often characterized the individual. Hanani characterized one who had compassion.

And I thought: Boy, what a family. Two brothers: one who means "Comfort" and the other meaning "to show mercy".

Hanani was concerned. And that is why he shared it with his brother. Because he knew that Nehemiah walked with God.

at And I might say to you that even in the ministry of prayer, it is very difficult to have fellowship in prayer with people who are not concerned. People who do not have sensitive hearts. And could care little about the lost state of people, or, the condition of things that imprison them. If you want to know the joy of prayer and the ministry of prayer, it arises out off a compassionate and concerned heart.

But, Nehemiah was concerned over two things.

(10) According to Vs 2, it says, "I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped and had survived the captivity." He was concerned over people. You will never be much of a prayer warrior, you will never enjoy the ministry of prayer, unless you realize that it is about people and not things.

As you read the testimony and prayer life of such men as the Apostle Paul, you realize that he named people, one after another, for whom he was praying. Paul often said in his letters, such as Philippians 1, "I thank my God, every time I remember you. And I pray for you with joy for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now."

Paul consistently prayed for people. He was concerned about people. If you are not concerned about people there will not be a great deal of growth in the church or in your life.

at And isn't this interesting how this works. A person can be discouraged and depressed and trying to get out from under that. And he knows that the Bible teaches that we ought to pray. But, has no concern for anyone else but himself. I have found in my life that depression grows on depression. Discouragement grows on discouragement. Pity on pity. And it gets worse instead of better.

We need to lift up our eyes to other people. And began to pray for them. Knowing that that itself is the means of healing the depression in our own lives. Be concerned about others and it will make a difference in your life.

You will be able to live over the circumstances. You will start thinking about the real important issues. But you are people. Not things. Not programs. Not careers, Not jobs. But people. People in whom God is working. People with real needs. And the need of your prayers and mine.

He was also concerned in Vs 2 over, the place of Jersualem. It says, "and concerning Jerusalem."

Why should the man be so concerned? Take you Bibles and turn to the book of Psalms. And look at the 76th Psalm verse land 2. The Bible does teach that we should be concerned over Jersualem.

(Read Psalm 76:1-2)

The point is that here we learn ^{there} ~~the~~ concern over Jersualem simply because of the fact that it is God's dwelling place. Where his glory was manifested. And where the people worshipped Him.

Now, turn over to Psalms 102. Psalms 102 verse 21.....(Read) So, Jersualem is the place of worship and praise. Nehemiah was concerned about that because of that fact alone.

Psalms 122 though is the classic. The Psalm that is given to the city of Jersualem. Psalms 122...(Read the entire Psalms)

Here is a Psalm that gave specific instruction to Nehemiah to pray for Jersualem. And Nehemiah, of course, had this scripture because it was written by King David some 600 years before Nehemiah went back to the land.

(20) Now, come back to Nehemiah. He was concerned about ^{two} things. Not only God's people; but ~~also~~ ^{second} God's work in ~~the place of~~ Jersualme.

And that should also be the subject of our prayer life. Concern over people..YES...But also over God's work all over the world. And especially as it centers in his great plan for Jersualem. In application it would be in His plan for this church in ~~part~~ ^{Calumede}

~~The reason that I want to look at in this chapter is explain the~~
~~reasons in the life of Nehemiah, himself.~~
Now, the secondly ^{concerning this} ~~other~~ thing ~~about~~ the explanation and instruction of the people who came back to the ~~land~~ ^{Jerdah}

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(2B)

First so,
Second Nehemiah had an immediate concern because he was a man of concern. But the Bible, also, teaches us that the condition of things alone spoke to his heart. A N.T. principle along this line ~~there~~ would be when Jesus saw the multitudes in Matt. chapter 9 verse 36. The Bible says that when he saw the multitudes he was moved with compassion upon them because he saw them as sheep without a shepherd in great need.

And again it hit me, as I examined these examples from the Bible, of how often a prayer life is built and developed out of the conditions of the world. How easy it is for us to know what is going on, yet, not to be concerned and not to pray. To see the condition of things in their true form, and, yet we do not pray.

on It is kind of like the last thing in the world you do. Not that you don't offer those quick prayers to God. But as far as waiting upon the Lord in what Nehemiah calls a day and night thing, most of us are unfamiliar with that kind of prayer. And it is no wonder that the emotional strain stays with us. Because the Bible says that when you are emotionally afflicted... pray... And those that ~~wait~~ wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. So, if you really want an answer then you are going to have to exercise the ministry of prayer. And prayer is built upon concern for people. It is built upon concern for God's work. But also upon conditions of things in the world. When Jesus saw Jerusalem he wept over the city. He knew the condition of things. They had turned their backs on God's plan for them.

And **He** was concerned. But we very often go through a whole week with little concern about the condition of things in the world. Or, the condition of people without Jesus Christ. We need to face this issue... The need of prayer to live above circumstances and to have a victorious christian life.

There is no substitution for the quiet place.

() I believe there are two things here that ~~we~~ *you* want to see about the condition of things.

(1C) One, was the way that people were suffering. And I hope that you don't have an insensitive heart today. Because all around you people are deeply suffering with heartaches, anxieties, and burdens....

And they would give anything if someone would pray with them.

Notice what Nehemiah said in Vs 3...."The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach."

The word "distress" means "evil and badness." And the word "reproach" means "to shame."

Do you know what he was concerned about? He was concerned about the insults, the attacks and the dirty deeds, if you please, to the opposition in Jersusalem. The way ~~one~~ one believer was being insulted and attack by another ~~believer~~ believer. And he saw a graeat need for support in prayer.

my This is a very interesting parrallel to us in our situation here in this church.

(2C) And secondly, I believe he was concerned about the way the wall of Jersusalem was broken down. *as he says in vs 3*

Now, just a little illustration at this point.

In the Bible you have the walls of Jersusalem symbolized in three ways. One, of course, is security. The wall was built around the city to keep the badd guys out. Those who would attack those on the inside. And you see, with out the wall they were being attack by their enemies. So, ~~the~~ ^{The} wall represent security.

But, it also represente salvation. The Bible teaches that. For example: Isa. 60:18. The walls of Jersusalem represented God's protection and salvaton of his people. Thus it was a symbol.

But, it also represented strength. The strength of those walls to keep out the enemies.

So, ~~so,~~ ^{you see} ~~we~~ when we face the oppositions of life, the walls around us, which prayer itself can build, strengthens us to stand firm in the battles that we face.....It is very insteresting to make these spiritual applications

(2A) But let's look, now, at the example of Nehemiah and his prayer life.

One of the greatest prayer ever recorded in the Scriptures. Vs 4 to 11.

(1B) The first thing that I notice is his attitude. *So important in prayer* ~~This is a great challenge~~

You can understand to me. In Vs 4..."Now it came about when I heard these words, I sat down and went and mourned for days; and fasted and prayed ~~before~~ ^{before} the God of heaven"

~~Was~~ Nehemiah, unlike many of us, was not saying to everyone around him: "Hay, let's go to it." He was not ready to charge into the battle, or to begin making plans on how he was going to rebuild the walls. Or, anything else. He immediately sat down and wept and fasted and prayed.

We are so impatient. Time is so pressing. Some of you in this service are already thinking of what you have to do this afternoon or tomorrow. It is a habit that we all are involved in because of our frame of reference.. Go.. go...go...do this....do that....meet this deadline.....And we just seem pressed....pressed...pressed.....

And so you read something like verse 4.."He sat down and mourned and wept and fasted and you say: "well that is nice, but I don't have the time."...

And maybe that is our problem here in First Baptist. The attitude of the modern christian is "We can handle this thing. We can do this job. Let's get a committee formed. Let's get our plans laid out. And let's handle this job."

How foolish we are. And often the results reveal that we are not men and women of prayer. We would be far ahead of the game if we took time to pray about those matters of importance in our lives. PRAY IS THE GREAT MOVER OF HISTORY. [The Bible admonishes us to pray and to believe in God's power. Rather than in trusting in ourselves. The Bible admonishes us to pray that God's will be done. To leave everything with him whose will is controlling all things. The Bible teaches that we ought to have dependence upon God. David learned that in Pslams 51. When he tried to bring his sacrifices to God. He learned that they were not accepted. And he learned that the sacrifices of God are a broken spirit and a contrit heart.

What you see in Vs 4 is a man who is broken and concerned. And I say to you that in the midst of all of our business, prayer is still the greatest need among christians. People who have broken and concerned hearts. And again if you ~~are~~ ^{are} not in that prayer closet, you will never have a heart like this. No matter how much you try to build it up or work it up, you will never be a sensitive person to the feelings of others without a prayer life.

The Bible teaches this and we ought to be aware of it. And some of us right now, ought to reckonize the root problem in our life as to why we are

going through what we are going through. Because it maybe the lack of prayer. We look to a thousand things ^{except} ~~except~~ the time we ~~spend~~ spend with God in prayer.

Nehemiah's attitude is a challenge to all of us. Let's don't charge into the battle. Let's don't find fault with others and criticism them. Let's go to our knees ~~in~~ in prayer. Let's pray for people. Let's trust the Lord to make changes in others. *Prayer Time - For Reviving Confession*

(2B) The second thing that I noticed about ^{Nehemiah's} his prayer life is the way he approached God. In Vs 5 there are two things emphasized.

(1C) His approach was first of all based upon God's character. We ought always to approach God in this way. When we pray to God it is an appeal to His character. And there are ^{two} things that are really indicated as he appeals to God's character. Look at them carefully.

(1D) Vs 5 says "I beseech thee, O Lord God of heaven." There he is exalting God's position. He is looking at God's character and saying: "His position is that He is the Lord God of heaven. How could I question Him?" From heaven is the source of all good things. It is his position that guarantees ~~fruitfulness~~ fruitfulness in my prayer life.

(2D) The second thing that I notice in Vs 5 is that he looks to God's power. He calls him the "great and awesome God." The word "awesome" means "the one to be feared or reverenced." And as Nehemiah began to pray, he based his prayer on God's ~~character~~ character. God's position: that he is the Lord God of heaven. And on his power: He is the great and awesome God. The God who needs to be adored or feared or reverenced.

(2C) The second thing that characterized his approach to God ~~was~~ that it ~~was~~ based upon God's covenant. Which basical is the issue of the faithfulness of God. That God is faithful to us. And we ought, therefore, to appeal to God on that bases. God is an unchanging God. James 1:17 says that "every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow."

God is unchangable. And we ought to appeal to that in prayer. God will be faithful to his covenants and his promises.

And that is exactly the way Nehemiah approached God. Lord you have a covenant and I am appealing to it.

And he says ^{vs} that that covenant is "lovingkindness for ^{those} ~~those~~ who love Him and keep His commandments."

God is a loving God and he will be faithful to those who obey Him...

And I believe at this point that we ought to say that any prayer life that is effective is based on practical obedience to God. In I John 3:22, God tell us ~~us~~ that if you want to be effective in prayer and receive the things you ask for, then you are to keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight.

The only real assurance that God will be faithful to you in answering your prayers is a life that has practical obedience to the known revealed will of God. We can become powerful when we appeal to God's faithfulness to those who obey him. You obey him and God has promised to do great and mighty things.

^(3B) I believe we learn, also, in the example of Nehemiah, the important ~~element~~ element of the acknowledgement of sin. Verse 6 and 7. His acknowledgement of sin. No prayer life will be effective that ignores the issue of sin in your life. God does not want us to come, ~~as~~ the unbeliever mentioned in I John 1:6 and 8 and 10, who argues that he has no sin. And that he doesn't actually commit sin. God doesn't want us to come that way.

The christian who is walking with the Lord, acknowledges his sin. You don't have to force him.

And the Bible warns us about trying to cover up our sin. Especially in the presence of a God who has already granted us forgiveness. So, why should we fear being exposed to a God who loves us and who has forgiven us?

If you want to have an effective prayer life, you had better face the issue of sin in your life. And acknowledge it in the presence of God. And stop trying to hide it. Sure we are forgiven. But like the prodigal son, like Nehemiah's prayer, we must acknowledge it before God ~~and~~ through confession. *Very important*

^(1C) ~~(1D)~~ Look at Vs 6 carefully *as to a defecation of sin* He sayss, "confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against Thee; I and my father's house have sinned."

A couple of things here. *About the need to acknowledge*

(19) I notice that he includes himself. "We have sinned. I have sinned."

(20) And I notice also, that it is against the Lord. That is the real issue. You see, all sin in our life, no matter what it is, is in the final analysis against the Lord, himself.

I don't care if you are talking about offending another brother or sister in Christ...you are really offending ~~you~~ the Lord God almighty. Every sin is a transgression of His Holy moral law and His character.

When we come before God it is not with pride that God answers. James reminded us that "we who humble ourselves will be exalted." He who submits to God will receive the answer. We do not come with pride. The basic fact that I find in Christian experience that results in pride is when I come to the Lord and refuse to acknowledge what He already knows and what He has already forgiven. And that is the presence of sin in my life.

Without that acknowledgement, it reduces the Christian to the point that he is helpless and dependent upon God. A Christian who bases what he is and ~~knows~~ knows what he is and doesn't try to hide it. But a Christian who recognizes that it is God's power in me, not my strength doing it. But God must do this because I am the kind of person that I am: a sinner saved by grace.

This is very important in all of our lives. To recognize when we pray, to acknowledge the presence of sin.

(20) And as to the damage done, according to Vs 7 ~~it~~ says "we have acted very corruptly against thee." The word "corruptly" means "to wound or damage or cause pain." And I would add here that we certainly are causing pain, as Vs 7 tells us, against the heart of God, *when we don't acknowledge our sin*

Whenever a Christian goes on in his stubborn, sinful way, experiencing more and more problems in his life, refusing to forgive his brother, I admonish you, I beseech you on what the Bible teaches that somewhere in your life there are wrong thinking patterns or wrong deeds in our life. There is sin there. And it is growing like cancer. And we are trying to hide it from God which is so foolish. Because God knows all things. And we are causing great hurt ~~to~~ to His own heart.

He who knows us and knows our need. And wants to do for us what we really want done. And yet he withdraws his power and blessings from our life, because we go on hiding what He already knows we are.....

~~Oh~~, When will we learn to be people of confession. Confessing our sins to God and forgiving one another even as God has forgiven us...

I say this in all love...If we want to see the power of God at work in this church, if we desire to see growth, then we need to practice confession of sin. And especially practice forgiveness of ~~an~~ another. Oh, how we need to confess our sin. And overlook the sins of our brothers and sisters....

Dear Friends, God is going to work with the one who recognizes his own sinful state. God is going to bless the life that is broken because of its sin. Not the one who continues to parade his goodness. Not the one who continues to put others down and build himself up.

Oh, we can learn much from Nehemiah about ~~the~~ ^{The} acknowledgement of sin and the damage that it does to the heart of God.

(10) Third, notice the disobedience involved. Vs 7 says "we have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which thou ~~didst~~ command thy servant Moses."

Oh You see the heart of it all is like Adam, himself. Adam was not desevred. I Timothy tells us so. He deliberately disobed. Disobedience is the heart and core ~~of~~ what sin is all about. It is violating the known principles of God's Word. And one of the tragedies is: instead of admitting that to God, we often try to explain to others and even to God as to why we did what we did. How foolish we are when His moral law stand without change without all history. It is the truth. And we ought to live up to it. And to recognize that we have sinned against God. We have disobed his principles. It is any wonder that we experience what we experience?

What I say to you, I say to myself. And that is that we will never experience a victoarious christian life, victory over the circumstances that we all face, growth and power in our church, we will never have that victoary, if we hid our sinful state. It is impossible..

43) ~~110~~ ~~111~~ ~~112~~ ~~113~~ ~~114~~ ~~115~~ ~~116~~ ~~117~~ ~~118~~ ~~119~~ ~~120~~ ~~121~~ ~~122~~ ~~123~~ ~~124~~ ~~125~~ ~~126~~ ~~127~~ ~~128~~ ~~129~~ ~~130~~ ~~131~~ ~~132~~ ~~133~~ ~~134~~ ~~135~~ ~~136~~ ~~137~~ ~~138~~ ~~139~~ ~~140~~ ~~141~~ ~~142~~ ~~143~~ ~~144~~ ~~145~~ ~~146~~ ~~147~~ ~~148~~ ~~149~~ ~~150~~ ~~151~~ ~~152~~ ~~153~~ ~~154~~ ~~155~~ ~~156~~ ~~157~~ ~~158~~ ~~159~~ ~~160~~ ~~161~~ ~~162~~ ~~163~~ ~~164~~ ~~165~~ ~~166~~ ~~167~~ ~~168~~ ~~169~~ ~~170~~ ~~171~~ ~~172~~ ~~173~~ ~~174~~ ~~175~~ ~~176~~ ~~177~~ ~~178~~ ~~179~~ ~~180~~ ~~181~~ ~~182~~ ~~183~~ ~~184~~ ~~185~~ ~~186~~ ~~187~~ ~~188~~ ~~189~~ ~~190~~ ~~191~~ ~~192~~ ~~193~~ ~~194~~ ~~195~~ ~~196~~ ~~197~~ ~~198~~ ~~199~~ ~~200~~ ~~201~~ ~~202~~ ~~203~~ ~~204~~ ~~205~~ ~~206~~ ~~207~~ ~~208~~ ~~209~~ ~~210~~ ~~211~~ ~~212~~ ~~213~~ ~~214~~ ~~215~~ ~~216~~ ~~217~~ ~~218~~ ~~219~~ ~~220~~ ~~221~~ ~~222~~ ~~223~~ ~~224~~ ~~225~~ ~~226~~ ~~227~~ ~~228~~ ~~229~~ ~~230~~ ~~231~~ ~~232~~ ~~233~~ 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I see, also, some great lessons for us in the need of prayer by examining his appeal to God's promises in Verses 8 to 10. Just three things here that I want you to notice.

(10) One, the prerequisite that He urged God to remember. Which of course God did. But he said in Vs 8 "Remember the word which Thou **didst** command."

Vs 9 "if you return to Me and keep my commandments and **do** them" then God will bless. I just remind you again that when you start making appeals to God, whether it is a simple pray: "Lord, help me, I am in a miss", don't forget the prerequisite and condition of ^{turning} turning unto him. James says, "draw near to God and he will draw near to you." *IF MY WORD abides in you and you in my word, then - I will give it to you.*

Don't forget the necessity of keeping His commandments, in terms of practical obedience to the known principles of his word. If you want to appeal to God to move and work in you life, then don't egnore application of His word. It is absolutely necessary, if we are to experience God's promise and blessing.

25 ²⁰ Let's examine the promise for just a moment. The promise is stated in

Vs 9 "I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause my name to dwell."

Just two phrases: "I will gather them" and "I will bring them." I know it is speaking, literally, of Israel coming back to the land. But I thought in application in my own life of Jesus wepting over the city of Jersualem. He said, "How often would I have gathered thee as a hen gathers her young." And I just thought, How foolish we often are to stay outside of that wonderful realm of the wings of our Lord. Under his wings, the song writer wrote, is the peace and blessing.

And how often we move out off the shelter of his wings. And we get into all kinds of trouble. And Jesus cries out: "How often would I have gathered you."

A simple prerequisite. Just turn to me. One little turn. Like the prodigal son. The Bible doesn't say that the Father waited in his house until the son came all the way up to the door and then gave him the third degree until the son really showed his rependence and then he forgave....NO...

The Bible says that when the father saw his son coming he ran to him and throw his armas around him and kissed him....Oh, the love of the Father....

One little simple evidence of turning to God and listen, He is coming your way...GOD LOVES US. HE REALLY DOES. HE WANTS TO MINISTER IN YOUR LIFE. HE WANTS TO BLESS YOU....ONE little turn God's way brings a flood of blessings. Because that is the kind off God he is...

Yet, we go on paying lip service to him, not seeking to forgive one another no wonder we never get our problems solved.....

(30) Now, not only the promise, but notice the protection. Vs 10 says, "and they are thy servants and thy people whom thou didst redeem by thy great power and by thy strong hand."

His prayer in appealing to God was based upon God's past protection to his people in taking them out off Egypt.

And I thought. We have nothing to worry about. We have absolutely nothing to worry about. God has not given us the spirit of fear. But of love and power and a sound mind. What have we to fear. We have God's wonderful protection and promise to us. No matter what the test. No matter what the challenge. No matter what the circumstances of life that are putting us down and making us discouraged. We haven't got anything to fear at all.

Jesus said: "Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the age. I will never leave you nor forsake you." He is with us. We have nothing to fear.

Our critics come and try to discourage us. But don't worry. God will be with us. "Be anxieious for nothing. But ~~in~~ in everything by prayer with thanksgiving, let your request be known unto God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding will keep our hearts and minds."

(5B) (50) One final ^{thought} thought. I notice that he ask ^{Two} specific requests. Don't you sometimes wonder what you should ^{pray} ask for? I know the Lord tells us to ask for anything. But I feel embarassed sometimes. Do you know what I mean?

I wanted that new ¹⁹⁹² ~~1985~~ T-Bird for sometime now.....I did hear a funny thing the other day. I was listening to a tape of a fellow. And he was trying to illustrate what we ^{should} pray for. Even though it was a little carnal it made me laugh ^{about how} ~~of how~~ limited is our faith. He said, "You know when christians pray for something they always divid things into two catogries. For example,

He said: "God owns the following cars: Volswagon, Datson, Toyota, ~~Porsche~~, ^{and Tempis} ~~Merick~~.....And the Devil owns the following cars: Cadolic, Lincolon continantal, Mercedes...you know.

And it is amazing how we think that way, isn't it? And he was ^{pointing} ~~point~~ out how limited is our faith. Of course the Bible teaches us in James 4, ⁴ ~~to~~ not to ask that we may consum it upon our lust. That is ridiculous. If there is no purpose or motivation that will honor God, of course ~~He~~ is not going to answer the request.

But, it does illustrate a point. How limited is our faith. And often we wander what we should ask for. Well, I am challenged by Nehemiah. He really got down to basaics. There were two things that he wanted.

¹⁰ (10) One, this really encouraged me. He said, "make thy servant successful today." That just gave me encourage to ask God to ^{vs} make my life successful. "Make thy servant successful today." This deals with what you are. Your life. Lord, make my life successful this day. *Make The Renewing Conference successful*

Of course, remember all that went on before and now you know why he could ask that kind of request.

²⁰ (20) And the second thing that he ask was "grant me compassion in the sight of that man who is my King."

You see, ^{Nehemiah} ~~he~~ could have lost his life. Did you know that? A cupbearer had no right to speak to a king. No right to say one little word. He could only do what he was told. Yet, he prayed, "Lord, grant me mercy." "Hold back the wrath of that Persion king. And grant me compassion in his sight."

So, some how and some way you can do the impossible. How could one little cupbearer who can't open his mouth in front of his king possible hope to take many people back to Israel with him and rebuild the walls of Jersualem?

Now, I tell you that that is impossible. 600 hundred miles away with no means of modern transportation. And he is going to go into that king and ask Him?....That ^{took} ~~take~~ faith, brother!...Faith to believe that God is able to do far above all that we could ever ask or think. "Lord, grant me meray in the sight of this man." *For I Am just a Cup-beer to my King*

My specific request is that I want that king to give me permission to go back to Judah and rebuild the walls of Jersuelam. BOY! Praise the Lord!

Wouldn't you like to have a prayer life like that? God granted that request as we ^{prepare for our Renewing Conference} ~~will learn next week on the subject of~~ "BELIEVING GOD."

O, how we need prayer. I don't know what you are going through. And I don't know all the troubles of your life. But I know this. You and I ~~both~~ both need a prayer life. And there are a lot of people talking about it. But there are very few people who are really doing it. There are a lot of people who ^{giving} ~~give~~ token appreciation to God by praying at meals or a prayer or two before bed time. But very few who want to "wait upon the Lord."

Now, I tell you that if you are really under pressure and you have a deep burden on your heart, you ought to spent time alone with the Lord until you get this thing strengthened out. It is the only thing that will do.

If you have a rooot of bitterness against ^{anything or anyone} ~~the church or someone in this~~ church, you ought to spent time on your knees with the Lord until you get it worked out.

Wait on the Lord and be of good courage, and ~~he~~ He will strengthen your heart
Wait, I say on the Lord.

Let's close with a word of prayer