

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Nehemiah - Part 1

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

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Introduction

When he was cupbearer to King Artaxerxes, Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem had been destroyed and lay defenceless. This troubled Nehemiah, so he returned home to Jerusalem to rebuild its walls. As well as defining boundaries, walls represent security, provision, identity and order/governance. We are God's Church; if the walls of the Church are crumbling or in rubble in some areas, we are susceptible to attack and may suffer loss of identity. Before taking action, Nehemiah prayed and fasted for four months, aligning himself with God. We too need to seek God and align with His purpose for our lives.

Read Nehemiah 1:1-11

Discuss

1. Read Nehemiah 1:1-11. How did Nehemiah react to what he saw? What do we learn about Nehemiah from his reaction?
2. Have you ever mourned/fasted/prayed for days? Why or why not?
3. What do we see about Nehemiah's view of God?
4. What did Nehemiah request of God?
5. What can we learn from Nehemiah about confession before God?
6. What point is Nehemiah making in verses 8-9? What does Nehemiah remind the Lord of in verse 10?

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Reflection

Nehemiah was an important official and servant to the King. He could have continued living and enjoying his life without worrying about the walls of Jerusalem, yet he had a heart for the city of his birth and for its protection.

What are the walls in our Church or personal lives that we most need to strengthen or totally rebuild today? What has God shown you that needs to be rebuilt in your personal life, family, job, church, community, city or nation? Pray and ask for God's wisdom, direction and favour on the next steps He is calling you to take in that area.