

HOW TO PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

Nehemiah 1

I. What prompts you to pray (v1-4)

- A. Learn about the state of the Church in America (v1-3)
- B. See it as God does and let your heart be moved (v4)

II. What characterized his prayer (v5-11): 7 things:

- A. _____: begins and ends with worship, not complaints
vss 5 & 11
- B. _____: sees himself as a servant, not critic
vss 6, 11, cf. vs 6, 7, 8, 10, 11
The normal biblical name for a leader is “servant”
- C. _____: sees himself as responsible for sad state of affairs (v6-7)
Does not blame shift because he knows his heart
- D. _____, not guilt, is his hope and motivation (v5)
- E. _____ → _____: he argues God’s covenant promises to gain God’s mercy (v8-9 refer to Deuteronomy 30:1-5a)

Not vague desire for God to “make things better”
- F. _____: he is willing to be used by God as part of the answer! Real stretch of faith and inconvenience (v11)

Not “Somebody should...” Rather “Here am I...”

G. _____: 1:1, 4 to 2:1 is 4 months

How often do we pray 3-4 times and when see nothing happen, we give up and lose interest

III. What God did in answer: chs 2-13

- Ch 2: Artaxerxes sent him!
- Ch 3: rebuilt the walls!
- Ch 4: Resistance to God’s work
- Ch 5: Group repentance as see more sin
- Ch 6: Further resistance and spiritual warfare
- Ch 7-8: Wall finished; great rejoicing!
- Ch 9: Further realization of sin → more repentance
- Ch 10-12: lots more rejoicing!
- Ch 13: more reforms and remembrance of God’s mercy

So what for you and me

1. Honestly face the state of the Church in Howard County and America: how much difference are we making?
Cry out to God because His Church honors or dishonors Him
2. Our facility under construction is also of God
That does not mean it will be easy!
Pray for its completion and usefulness for the Gospel
3. Gather **next Sunday 5:00-6:00pm in the basement of the Potter’s House** to cry out to Him as Nehemiah did. Study his prayer and learn from him.
We will follow his example together.
E.g.: what are things we need to repent of in order to know His blessing?

Our eyes are on You.