

delight in honouring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favourable to me. Put it into his heart to be kind to me.” (Neh 1:11)
success = salah =

“The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord; He directs it like a watercourse where He pleases.” (Proverbs 21:1)

Nehemiah reminds us:

“Pray as if everything depends on God, then work as if everything depends on you.” (Martin Luther)

How committed are you to be involved in the building of Living Waters?



Questions for Further Reflection

1. What does Nehemiah’s grief over the state of Jerusalem reveal about his character? His affection for the Lord? His affection for his people?
2. When you receive bad news, is your first response like Nehemiah’s? Why or why not? How do you begin your prayers to the Lord? How is the opening to Nehemiah’s prayer an example to us?
3. Why does Nehemiah fast as part of seeking the will of the Lord? What does fasting teach us?
4. What petition does Nehemiah repeat like a bookend to his prayer (1:6, 11)? What do you think this repetition should communicate to us? To God?
5. Although he lives in exile among people of pagan beliefs, Nehemiah knows and clings to God’s character and promises. How is he an example for us?
6. Nehemiah asks God to remember His promises to His people. Since God does not need to be reminded of His promises, why does Nehemiah remind Him?
7. Take some time to pray through the Nehemiah’s prayer. What elements do you need to employ more faithfully?

The 16th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 13, 2015
A Time to Build: Lessons From the Book of Nehemiah

The Process of Prayer Nehemiah 1:1-11

“According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 3:10)

Paul makes it very clear the kind of church we’re called to build needs to have a strong and secure _____ . It needs to be founded firmly on _____ .

“This entire land will become a desolate wasteland. Israel and her neighbouring lands will serve the king of Babylon for seventy years.” (Jeremiah 25:11)

5 STEPS IN NEHEMIAH’S PROCESS OF PRAYER

Step #1.

“These are the memoirs of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes’ reign, I was at the fortress of Susa. Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem.” (Nehemiah 1:1-2)

“You survivors of the sword, go, do not linger! Remember the Lord in a distant land, and think on Jerusalem...” (Jeremiah 51:50)

“Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire.” (Nehemiah 1:3)

Great trouble = ra’ =

Walls =

NEHEMIAH’S 2 RESPONSES TO THE REPORT

- **An _____ response**
“When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days...”

• A _____ response

“When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven.” (Nehemiah 1:4)

Nehemiah reminds us:

How concerned are you about this new thing that God is doing in and through us?

Step #2. _____

“O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of love with those who love Him and obey His commands, listen to my prayer!” (Nehemiah 1:5)

4 WAYS NEHEMIAH DESCRIBES GOD

- _____ = _____
- _____ = _____
- _____ = _____
- _____ = _____

Nehemiah reminds us:

How is your perspective? Do you trust in God's character? Do you trust that He's more than able to do the impossible?

Step #3. _____

“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! We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses.” (Nehemiah 1:6-7)

“How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.” (Matthew 7:4-5)

3 INGREDIENTS IN NEHEMIAH'S CONFESSION

• _____
“O Lord, the God who saves me, day and night I cry out before you.” (Psalm 88:1)

• _____
“I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,’ and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.” (Psalm 32:5)

• _____
“Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!” (Psalm 130:1)

Nehemiah reminds us:

Is there anything you need to confess? Is there anything you need to bring to God?

Step #4. _____

“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 honoured.’” (Nehemiah 1:8-10)

“For thus says the Lord: ‘Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place...I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you...I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.’” (Jeremiah 29:10)

Nehemiah reminds us:

“I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart so I won't sin myself bankrupt.” (Psalm 119:11 MSG)

As we build this church, what promises can we claim from God's word? Are you confident that God can and will deliver?

Step #5. _____

“O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who