

Studies in the book of Nehemiah  
*Fervent Prayers—Relying upon God*  
*Neh. 1:4-2:2*

**Intro:** When Nehemiah heard about the distress and reproach of his fellow-Jews in Jerusalem he was broken hearted. He “wept and mourned for days”. He really cared about God’s people and you sense immediately that he wanted to do something about it; but it was clearly something bigger than he could handle by himself. It was a God-sized problem that called for God’s help. And so he began to pray about the problem.

All of us could learn a great deal by considering the prayer of Nehemiah and learning from Him how to pray and get God’s answers.

**Nehemiah’s prayer was:**

*Fervent in spirit*

You sense as you read that Nehemiah is not praying casually.

Although this prayer was relatively short in reading, it seems to be a summation of the kinds of things Nehemiah prayed about at length.

I was fasting and praying.

In his language we hear one striving in prayer, with earnestness, with intensity.

Cf. Col. 4:12

*Reverent in tone*

Nehemiah's prayer shows a keen awareness of God's greatness.

To Nehemiah He is awesome, v. 5. We sense that this prayer goes up with great respect for Jehovah.

Later he refers to those who “revere Thy name” (v. 11).

The NASV reverts to the KJV modes of expression to God to preserve the perceived reverence of these archaic English forms still used in many prayers.

Nehemiah did not offer to God some special prayer language nor is it necessary that we do so. We just need to talk to God with respect and awe for His greatness that is reflected in the content and spirit of heart with which we pray.

*Honest in content*

There is no denial or glossing over of sin (v. 6-7)

“Confessing the sins of the sons of Israel”.

“I have sinned”

*Faithful in approach*

Nehemiah’s prayer shows faith in God’s character (v. 5).

Nehemiah’s prayer shows faith in God’s power (v. 10).

Nehemiah prayer shows faith in God’s promises (v. 8-9)

**He prays in the will of God because he knows the word of God! v. 8-9**

**From time to time I have heard people ridicule the idea of quoting Scripture in prayer. I believe that would depend upon what motivated one to do so. Obviously God knows what He has said; we don't need to tell him what he has said. And yet, sometimes telling God what he has said is simply a matter of affirming our faith in his word. This is what Nehemiah did.**

***Obedient in expression***

**It is interesting to notice how many times Nehemiah uses the word "servant" to describe himself and God's other people (v. 6, 11). Nehemiah didn't just want "somebody" to do something about the reproach of Jerusalem. He wanted to do something about it. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every child of God was that ready to be used by God to solve the problems of his people?**

**The prayer was specific! v. 11 "I want to do something about the desolate condition of Jerusalem!"**

**What Nehemiah was proposing to do was ask the king if he could return to Jerusalem personally and lead them in restoring the city.**

***Hopeful in outlook***

**Cf. Make thy servant successful "today before this man."**

**He was willing to risk his own life out of that faith. 2:1-2**

**Application to us**

***If all great works begin with tears, then secondly those tears lead us to the throne room of God. I urge you, if you are not already, to start praying for the cause of Christ here at Perry Heights. And pray like Nehemiah!***