

Talking with God (Nehemiah 1:1 – 2:9)

Basic Training – Part 2

Life Church St. Louis – September 13, 2015

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Revelation 3:15-16 (NIV) I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIV) pray continually;

1. Seek God's kingdom _____

Nehemiah 1:2-3 (NIV) Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."

1A. Have God's _____ for the situation

Nehemiah 1:4a (NIV) When I heard these things, I sat down and wept.

1B. _____ yourself and pray

Nehemiah 1:4b (NIV) For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

2. Pray according to God's _____

2A. Acknowledge God's _____

Nehemiah 1:5-6a (NIV) Then I said: "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, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel.

2B. _____ your sins

Nehemiah 1:6b-7 (NIV) I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

2C. Base your request on _____

Nehemiah 1:8-10 (NIV) "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand.

2D. Request _____ for God's plan

Nehemiah 1:11 (NIV) O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." I was cupbearer to the king.

3. Take _____ according to your prayer

Nehemiah 2:1-2a (NIV) In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before; so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart."

3A. Overcome _____

Nehemiah 2:2b-3 (NIV) I was very much afraid, but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"

3B. Pray _____

Nehemiah 2:4-5 (NIV) The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it."

3C. Receive your _____ from God

Nehemiah 2:6,8b (NIV) Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time. And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests.

Talking with God (Nehemiah 1:1 – 2:9) Study Guide

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Intro. What does it mean to be a lukewarm believer (Revelation 3:15-16)? Why is God opposed to lukewarmness?

How can a believer be filled with zeal for God and His purposes?

What does it mean to pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17)?

How can prayer affect your spiritual temperature?

1A. Why do you think that Nehemiah was interested in what was going on back in Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1:2-3)?

1B. How did Nehemiah's response to the grim news reflect God's heart (Nehemiah 1:4a)?

1C. What is the purpose of humbling oneself through fasting in prayer (Nehemiah 1:4b)?

1D. Why is it important to seek God's kingdom and not our own desires in prayer (Matthew 6:33)?

2A. What is significant about Nehemiah beginning his prayer with praising God (Nehemiah 1:5-6a)?

2B. Why do you think that Nehemiah confessed his sins as part of Israel's wickedness (Nehemiah 1:6b-7)?

2C. Why is it important that Nehemiah based his request on God's Word (Nehemiah 1:8-10, Leviticus 26:33, Deuteronomy 30:1-4)?

2D. For what purpose was Nehemiah requesting success (Nehemiah 1:11)?

2E. How does Nehemiah's prayer differ from the prayers we often pray?

3A. Why do you think that Nehemiah prayed for four months before taking action (Nehemiah 2:1-2a)?

3B. How is overcoming fear necessary to put God's plan into action (Nehemiah 2:2b-3)?

3C. What does the fact the Nehemiah silently prayed in the middle of his conversation with the king tell you about his prayer life (Nehemiah 2:4-5)?

3D. To what did Nehemiah attribute his success with the king (Nehemiah 2:6-9)?

3E. Why does prayer usually involve action on the part of the one praying in order to see the answer come?

3F. What prayer and action steps do you need to take to see lost loved ones saved and become part of a Bible-believing church like Life Church?