

'Building Blocks of Faith Series'

Sermons in the Book of Nehemiah

Message 3 - 'Faith That Waits...Then Moves' **Nehemiah 2: 1 - 8**



Nehemiah was a man of great faith, and in this passage we can specifically see two aspects of his faith that saw God grant him all that he needed to set to work on rebuilding the walls. We can see:

1. Nehemiah Had a Faith That Was Willing to Wait – He had prayed much about the situation, with both weeping and waiting. He did not rush ahead of the Lord, but waited for His perfect timing. We learnt that God's delays are not always God's denials, but that we must be persistent in prayer. This is NEVER a waste of time, as God hears, but also is preparing us for the work He has for us to do. Faith to wait on a sovereign God is essential, as when He moves of course we must be ready, but we will have the assurance that He is in it. Yet to rush into something without waiting on God, might see us rush into disaster where the Lord would not be in the centre of our plans, as they would just be that, our plans, NOT His!

2. Nehemiah Had a Faith That Was Willing to Ask – We also saw, that after waiting on the Lord, Nehemiah was sensitive to the Lord's will, and so when the right opportunity came, he was ready, prepared and able to take it. What a valuable lesson for us, that a God-given opportunity will include God-given wisdom. As the opportunity presents itself, and Nehemiah expresses his burden for Jerusalem, the king sees his concern and provides the means by which on an earthly level, something can be achieved. God is sovereign, and therefore 'a king's heart is like the river of waters, He turns it wherever He wishes'. Nehemiah had to wait for a presence with the king, as believer's, we always have a presence with the King of Kings at the throne of grace. So Nehemiah receives all that he needs, including written authority from the king to fulfil his journey and mission. It is wonderful that in God's Word, He has set forth written authority, that transcends all barriers even today, and the Word has power, for He has decreed it to be so, and it carries the king's mark, therefore it's message carries authority, and we should esteem it highly.



Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs