

DEVELOPING A LIFE OF PRAYER  
EDGEMONT BIBLE CHURCH  
2021-2022 (April 27, 2022)  
“PRAYING WHEN YOU SEE THE MESS WE ARE IN”  
NEHEMIAH 1:1-11

I. *THE PERSON WHO CAN SEE AND HEAR*

- A. *He/she has a relationship with God as a covenanted person*
- B. *He/she trusts God’s Word in testimony, in promise, and in judgment*
- C. *In that covenant relationship, he/she knows God has a revealed plan for His will and desires it to be realized in real time*
- D. *His/her goals and ambitions are tied to God’s vision of wholeness*
- E. *He/she knows the difference between God’s best and earth’s best*
- F. *He/she knows the difference between personal favorable conditions and the conditions God has established as His pleasure*
- G. *Even when conditions are favorable he/she will never be satisfied until engaged in God’s pleasure*
- H. *He/she uses his time to do what is necessary in life but does it with faith and diligence waiting for opportunity to be used by God for whatever He wishes; he/she lacks opportunity to do more*
- I. *Is always watching and listening for any clues as to the fulfillment of God’s pleasure*
- J. *Is fully involved emotionally, intellectually, spiritually and bodily in desiring God’s will to be done*
- K. *Has the humility to know God is greater than everything and He always knows best even when the person may not understand fully what it is He is doing*
- L. *Has complete faith in God to get His work done; it is just about timing; is excited when he/she can participate in accomplishing God’s will; wants to be used by God*
- M. *He/she knows that God is reachable and knowable*
- N. *He/she believes prayer is an appeal to God to accomplish the work of God*

II. *LISTENING FOR THE NEWS ABOUT GOD’S WORK* vv 1-3

- A. *Seeking the report, not just waiting to hear it randomly; he knows these are reliable reporters; they are “boots on the ground, eye witnesses”*
- B. *Makes the comparison with what is supposed to be happening and what is actually happening: discernment - knowing what God wants done, seeing what is done and judging its rightness or wrongness by God’s standard*

### III. RESPONDING TO THE NEWS

- A. *Total involvement: body, soul and spirit! He hears, considers, weeps, mourns, fasts and prays! All of it directed to heaven. This is not a pity part feeling sorry for himself.*
- B. *Some of the things he prayed for the next 4 months!*
  - 1. *He is persistent in his prayer for he knows both his prayer and the answer are the will of God*
  - 2. *He will pray until he has the answer that he is certain God wants to do*
  - 3. *He addresses God by using the reason he believes it will be answered:*
    - a. *God rules over all and man cannot stop God when He is doing His will; a delay like this one requires a move of God to clear the path to finish the work*
    - b. *God WILL answer (at some time) because He is a covenant-keeping God with those who love Him and those observant of His commandments; it is God who has commanded the building of the temple in Solomon’s day and it is God who told of its completion to Daniel*
    - c. *He pleads with God to hear him and to “see” him: he prays day and night; he prays for the children of Israel; he confesses their sin and includes himself in it. He wants God’s attention as he is pleading with the King for mercy and to keep His word.*
    - d. *He pleads with God for Him to remember His covenant promise if people returned to Him sincerely; He promised to bring them from exile back home to Israel again. He reminds Him that they are HIS children, belong to HIM*
    - e. *He asks God to prosper Him and give Him mercy in the sight of the national king (governing authority)*

#### *IV. MAKING APPLICATIONS FOR OURSELVES TODAY*

- A. Secure your relationship with God as your top priority; do not try to “buy” Him off by “looking” like it is a top priority - make it true! Trust Him and know He is always the best and always right. Trust that He is and He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*
- B. Set your affection on the things above where Christ sits at the right hand of the Father in the heavenlies. Know what Jesus likes and wants. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Want what He wants.*
- C. With your affections set, open your ears and eyes to events around you in terms of prophetic fulfillment: Fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and of those given by our Lord Himself and by the apostolic writers.*
- D. If your affections are set you will be letting the Word of God be your most read and most absorbed reading, get intense in research about His will.*
- E. Pray like the world is ending!*
  - 1. Let your prayers contain tons of thanksgiving*
  - 2. Let your prayers be for all men, especially for those in authority*
  - 3. Pray the will of God that you have been learning from your Bible reading.*
  - 4. Get to reliable “boots on the ground sources” for information about Israel and any of the countries God has included in those latter days prophecies. Do not count on main stream media sources, cable news, or other largely American media sources. They are looking for ratings and popularity and, at times, pushing a particular agenda. Get with sources closer to Israel such as Bridges for Peace, the Jerusalem Post, Amir Tsarfati, and Frontier Alliance. All but the Jerusalem post are biased toward Israel but the still try to report what is really going on in their regions. They are all based in Israel.*
  - 5. Pray for the restoration of Israel and their saving. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Remember Israel is the key to biblical prophecy. You will need to become international and global (world Christian) in your outlook*

6. *Share the Lord Jesus Christ and His return with anyone you can. Be ready to be a part of hastening His coming (2 Peter 3:11-13)*