

"First Resort"

Always Renovating

A Disturbing Report (v. 1-3)

Giving Credit (v. 26-39)

- The king was granted his request *"because the gracious hand of my God was upon my request"* (Neh. 2:8)
- When they experienced opposition, he said, *"The God of heaven will give us success"* (Neh. 2:20)
- When the project was finished, he declared, *"This work had been done with the help of our God"* (Neh. 6:16)

The Greatest Resource (v. 4-11)

1. Prayer should flow out of a sense of DESPERATION and PASSION (v. 4).
James 5:17 (ESV) - *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.*
"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of those about me seemed insufficient for the day" (Abraham Lincoln)
2. Prayer should bring us back to REALITY (v. 5-6a).
"True prayer opens the eyes to things not seen before" (J.C. Penney)
3. Prayer should bring us face to face with our SIN (v. 6b-7).
4. Prayer should center on God's gracious PROMISES (v. 8-10).
5. Prayer should inspire BOLDNESS and SPECIFICITY (v. 11).
Proverbs 21:1 (ESV) - *The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.*