

## ***Prayer and Persistence: The Story of Nehemiah***

**1. God's people are always LOVED by God.**

**2. God's people still face PROBLEMS .**

**especially important are SPIRITUAL PROMBLEMS .**

Nehemiah 1:1-3

**3. The Book of Nehemiah is a GUIDE .**

Nehemiah 1:4-6 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Then I said: "LORD, the God of heaven ... 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.

**4. He FASTED AND PRAYED for God to do a special work.**

Nehemiah 2:2-3 The king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart." 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 ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"

Nehemiah 2:4-5 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 ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it."

Nehemiah 2:8 And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

**5. FASTING AND PRAYER were accompanied by PERSISTENT WORK .**

Nehemiah 4:8-9 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

**6. FAILURE is avoided.**

Nehemiah 6:9 They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed." But I prayed, "Now strengthen my hands."

**7 The project was a great SUCCESS .**

Nehemiah 6:15-16. So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. <sup>16</sup>When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

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