


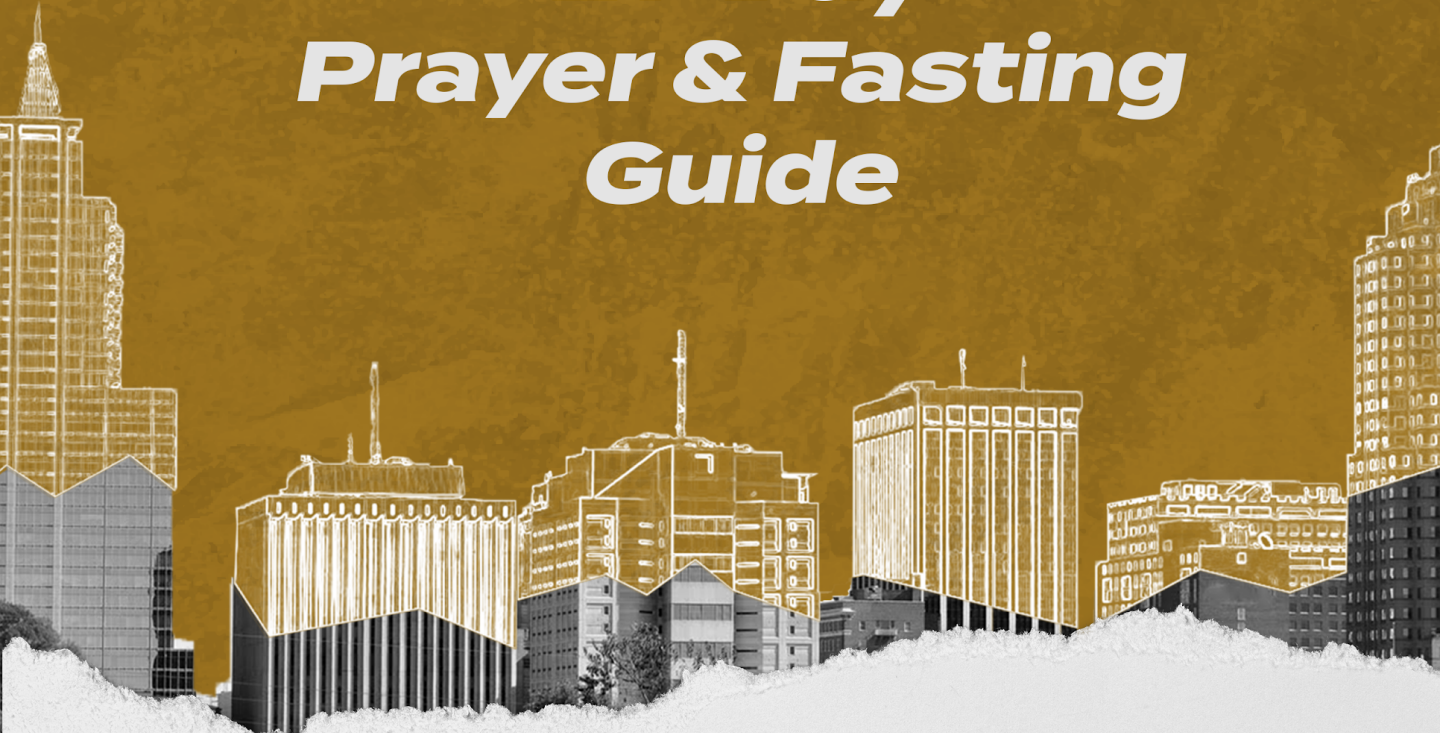
MT.  LIVE
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
Love God | Love People | Prove It

NEHEMIAH 2:17-18

BUILD *again*

REBUILD | REVIVE | RESTORE

21-Day Prayer & Fasting Guide



PASTOR WENDELL MARTIN

Dear Friend,

Thank you for joining us for “Build Again: Rebuild | Revive | Restore.” This transformative 21-day devotional journey is rooted in the powerful narrative found in the Book Nehemiah. Each day's devotional provides a 15-minute exploration of key passages from Nehemiah along with space to both reflect and pray as you read.

As we embark upon this guided experience, we will witness the revival of Jerusalem's broken walls mirroring the rebuilding process in their own lives, church, and community. Participants are invited to grapple with brokenness, seek God's guidance, overcome opposition, and celebrate victories. The underlying theme is clear: rebuilding is not merely about restoring physical structures but also about revitalizing hearts, relationships, and purpose.

It is our prayer that these lessons will resonate with the individuals and families that make up our faith community, while offering a blueprint for rebuilding that is Biblically sound, culturally relevant, and spiritually empowering.

All for His Glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Rev. Wendell Martin
Senior Pastor

Day 1: Foundations of Faith

Nehemiah 1:3-4 (CSB)

“3 They said to me, “The remnant in the province, who survived the exile, are in great trouble and disgrace. Jerusalem’s wall has been broken down, and its gates have been burned.”

Nehemiah’s Prayer

4 When I heard these words, I sat down and wept. I mourned for a number of days, fasting and praying before the God of the heavens.”

Summary

Nehemiah, upon learning about the state of Jerusalem, responds with deep emotion, prayer, and fasting. The broken walls sometimes resemble the brokenness in our lives, communities, and relationships that God desires to restore. What else can you learn from the details found in this text?

Reflection

What walls in your life, community, and/or relationships are broken down, and how can you bring them before God in prayer?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, like Nehemiah, help us to recognize and grieve the brokenness around us. May we find strength in prayer and fasting, seeking Your guidance to rebuild what is broken, for Your glory. (continue...)

In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Day 2: Surrendered Servanthood

Scripture: Nehemiah 2:4-5 (CSB)

4 Then the king asked me, "What is your request?"

So I prayed to the God of the heavens 5 and answered the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, send me to Judah and to the city where my ancestors are buried,[a] so that I may rebuild it."

Summary

After learning that Jerusalem's wall had been broken down, Nehemiah asked King Artaxerxes for some "time off" to go lead the efforts to rebuild them. His courage in approaching the king reflects a surrendered heart. He combines faith and action, recognizing the need for divine favor in his mission to rebuild Jerusalem. What else can you learn from the details found in this text?

Reflection

In what areas of your life do you need the courage to make requests and take action, trusting in God's favor?

Prayer

Lord, grant us the courage to step out in faith, fully surrendered to Your will. May we seek Your favor in all our endeavors, trusting that You are with us as we rebuild and restore.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 3: Facing Opposition

Scripture: Nehemiah 4:7-8 (CSB)

7 When Sanballat, Tobiah, and the Arabs, Ammonites, and Ashdodites heard that the repair to the walls of Jerusalem was progressing and that the gaps were being closed, they became furious. 8 They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and throw it into confusion.

Summary

Opposition arises when we are doing God's work. In this case, Nehemiah faced external challenges, reminding us that rebuilding sometimes attracts resistance. What else can you learn from the details found in this text?

Reflection

How do you respond to opposition in your life? Are you equipped with prayer and perseverance?

Prayer

Lord, strengthen us in the face of opposition. Grant us discernment to recognize the source of the challenges and the resilience to press on in Your strength, knowing that You are our ultimate defender.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 4: Unity in Purpose

Nehemiah 4:16-17 (CSB)

16 From that day on, half of my men did the work while the other half held spears, shields, bows, and armor. The officers supported all the people of Judah, 17 who were rebuilding the wall. The laborers who carried the loads worked with one hand and held a weapon with the other.

Summary

Nehemiah exemplifies unity in purpose as the people work together with tools in one hand and weapons in the other. Everyone did their part and each part was needed. In rebuilding, cooperation is vital. What else can you learn from the details found in this text?

Reflection

How can you foster unity and collaboration in your community or family as you pursue God's restoration?

Prayer

Lord, help us to work together in unity, recognizing that each person has a role in the larger mission. May we support and encourage one another as we build what You have called us to build.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 5: Encouraging Others

Scripture: Nehemiah 4:14b (CSB)

14 After I made an inspection, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials, and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the great and awe-inspiring Lord, and fight for your countrymen, your sons and daughters, your wives and homes."

Summary

Nehemiah addresses the discouragement among the people by reminding them of God's greatness. When we face challenges, focusing on God's power helps us overcome discouragement. Is there anything else you can learn from this text?

Reflection

How can you help others keep their focus on God's greatness when they encounter discouragement in their journey of rebuilding?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, in moments of discouragement, help us to fix our eyes on Your greatness. Strengthen our resolve to fight for what is right, trusting that You are with us every step of the way.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 6: Perseverance in Prayer

Nehemiah 1:11 (CSB)

11 Please, Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant and to that of your servants who delight to revere your name. Give your servant success today, and grant him compassion in the presence of this man.[a]

Summary

Nehemiah's continuous prayer reflects his reliance on God's guidance. Perseverance in prayer is essential as we face challenges in our rebuilding journey. What else can you learn from this text?

Reflection

How can you cultivate a habit of persistent prayer in your life, seeking God's guidance in all circumstances?

Prayer

Lord, teach us the importance of persevering in prayer. May we continuously seek Your guidance and wisdom, trusting that You hear and answer our prayers according to Your will.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 7: Examining Our Motives

Scripture: Nehemiah 5:7 (CSB)

7 After seriously considering the matter, I accused the nobles and officials, saying to them, "Each of you is charging his countrymen interest." So I called a large assembly against them...

Summary

Nehemiah confronts injustice within the community, highlighting the importance of examining our motives in the rebuilding process. What else can you learn from this text?

Reflection

Are your actions aligned with God's principles? Take time to examine your motives in your pursuit of restoration.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, reveal any impure motives in our hearts as we seek to rebuild. Help us to align our actions with Your will, pursuing restoration with integrity and compassion.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 8: Trusting God's Timing

Nehemiah 6:15 (CSB)

15 The wall was completed in fifty-two days, on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul.

Summary

The completion of the wall in an astonishing 52 days showcases God's perfect timing. Trusting God's timing is crucial in our rebuilding process. What else can you learn from this text?

Reflection

In what areas of your life do you need to surrender the timeline to God, trusting that He knows the perfect moment for restoration?

Prayer

Lord, help us to trust Your timing in our lives. May we wait patiently for Your perfect plan to unfold, knowing that Your timing is always for our best.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 9: Celebrating God's Faithfulness

Nehemiah 8:10 (CSB)

10 Then he said to them, "Go and eat what is rich, drink what is sweet, and send portions to those who have nothing prepared, since today is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, because the joy of the LORD is your strength."^[a]

Summary

As the people listen to the reading of the Law, they are reminded that the joy of the Lord is their strength. Celebrating God's faithfulness strengthens us in our rebuilding journey. What else can you learn from the text?

Reflection

How can you cultivate joy in the midst of challenges, knowing that it is your source of strength? What makes the "joy of The Lord" different?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, fill our hearts with Your joy as we walk the path of rebuilding. Allow that joy to be our constant source of strength and joy.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 10: Repentance and Renewal

Scripture: Nehemiah 9:1-2 (CSB)

On the twenty-fourth day of this month the Israelites assembled; they were fasting, wearing sackcloth, and had put dust on their heads. 2 Those of Israelite descent separated themselves from all foreigners, and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their ancestors.

Summary

The people engage in a solemn assembly, recognizing the need for repentance and renewal. True restoration often begins with a humble acknowledgment of our shortcomings. What else can we learn from this text?

Reflection

How can you cultivate a heart of repentance and renewal in your relationship with God?

Prayer

Lord, create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us. May we be quick to confess our sins and turn to You in repentance, experiencing the freedom and restoration that come through Your grace.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 11: Dedication to God's Word

Nehemiah 8:3 (CSB)

3 While he was facing the square in front of the Water Gate, he read out of it from daybreak until noon before the men, the women, and those who could understand. All the people listened attentively^[a] to the book of the law.

Summary

The people dedicated themselves to the study of God's Word. Not only is a commitment to God's truth foundational in the rebuilding process, His Word is the blueprint for rebuilding. What else can we learn from this text?

Reflection

How can you deepen your dedication to studying and applying God's Word in your life?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, ignite in us a passion for Your Word. May we continually seek Your guidance and wisdom through the Scriptures, finding strength and direction for our journey of rebuilding.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 12: A Covenant of Obedience

Nehemiah 10:29 (CSB)

...29 join with their noble brothers and commit themselves with a sworn oath^[a] to follow the law of God given through God's servant Moses and to obey carefully all the commands, ordinances, and statutes of the LORD our Lord.

Summary

The people enter into a covenant of obedience, committing to follow God's law. Our commitment to obedience is a vital aspect of rebuilding anything according to God's design. What else can you learn from this text?

Reflection

In what areas of your life can you renew your commitment to obeying God's commands?

Prayer

Lord, help us to remain steadfast in our commitment to obey Your commands. May our lives be a reflection of our love for You and our desire to honor You in all we do.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 13: Gratitude and Thanksgiving

Nehemiah 12:43 (CSB)

43 On that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because God had given them great joy. The women and children also celebrated, and Jerusalem's rejoicing was heard far away.

Summary

The completion of the wall is marked with gratitude and thanksgiving. Gratitude is a powerful expression of acknowledgment for God's faithfulness in the rebuilding process. What else can we learn from this text?

Reflection

How can you cultivate a heart of gratitude for God's work in your life, even in the midst of challenges? What does the expression of that gratitude look like?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your faithfulness in our journey of rebuilding. May gratitude flow from our hearts as we recognize Your hand at work in every aspect of our lives.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 14: Legacy of Faithful Service

Nehemiah 13:14 (CSB)

14 Remember me for this, my God, and don't erase the deeds of faithful love I have done for the house of my God and for its services.

Summary

Nehemiah prays for remembrance, emphasizing the importance of leaving a legacy of faithful service to the Work of God. The willingness to do this work was birthed out of a genuine concern for the House of God. What else can we learn from this text?

Reflection

What intentional steps can you take to leave a lasting legacy of faithful service for those who follow you?

Prayer

Lord, help us to live in a way that reflects Your love and faithfulness. May our actions today leave a lasting legacy of faith for generations to come, pointing others toward You.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 15: Guarding Against Compromise

Nehemiah 13:23-24 (CSB)

23 In those days I also saw Jews who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. 24 Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod or the language of one of the other peoples but could not speak Hebrew.[a]

Summary

Nehemiah addresses the issue of compromise in intermarriage, highlighting the importance of guarding against influences that can dilute our commitment to God. What else can you learn from this text?

Reflection

In what areas of your life do you need to be vigilant against compromise, ensuring that your allegiance to God remains strong?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to be discerning in the choices we make, guarding against influences that may lead us away from You. Strengthen our commitment to living according to Your standard.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 16: Restoring the Sabbath

Nehemiah 13:22 (CSB)

22 Then I instructed the Levites to purify themselves and guard the city gates in order to keep the Sabbath day holy.

Remember me for this also, my God, and look on me with compassion according to the abundance of your faithful love.

Summary

Nehemiah restores the observance of the Sabbath, emphasizing the importance of setting aside dedicated time for rest and worship.

Reflection

How can you prioritize intentional rest and worship in your life, ensuring a balance between work and rest?

Prayer

Lord, help us to honor the Sabbath as a sacred time of rest and worship. May we recognize the importance of slowing down and seeking Your presence in the midst of our busy lives. Amen.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 17: Trusted Stewards

Nehemiah 13:13 (CSB)

13 I appointed as treasurers over the storehouses the priest Shelemiah, the scribe Zadok, and Pedaiah of the Levites, with Hanan son of Zaccur, son of Mattaniah to assist them, because they were considered trustworthy. They were responsible for the distribution to their colleagues.

Summary

Nehemiah recounts how he appointed trustworthy individuals to oversee the storehouses. God's unchanging faithfulness is reflected in the integrity of those appointed to carry out His work. What else can we learn from this text?

Reflection

How can you be a trustworthy steward of the resources and responsibilities God has given you?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to be faithful stewards of the blessings and responsibilities entrusted to us. May our actions reflect Your trustworthiness to those around us.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 18: Let God Handle Them

Nehemiah 6:16 (CSB)

16 When all our enemies heard this, all the surrounding nations were intimidated and lost their confidence, [a] for they realized that this task had been accomplished by our God.

Summary

After the completion of the wall in 52 days, Nehemiah recounts that one of the results was the intimidation and loss of confidence of their enemies. This reminds us that when we commit ourselves to the work of the Lord, He'll take care of the opposition. What else can we learn from this text?

Reflection

What enemies have you allowed to distract you from your commitment to the Work of God? How does this text assist you in staying focused on your assignment?

Prayer

Father, I recognize that, when working for you, I will have enemies. Help me to focus on what you've assigned me to do, knowing that You will take care of them.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 19: Dedication & Celebration

Nehemiah 12:27 (CSB)

27 At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, they sent for the Levites wherever they lived and brought them to Jerusalem to celebrate the joyous dedication with thanksgiving and singing accompanied by cymbals, harps, and lyres.

Summary

The dedication ceremony of the wall featured a thanksgiving celebration complete with singing and musical instruments. Anytime we have the opportunity to witness the Work of God, celebration is in order. What else can we learn from this text?

Reflection

Have you taken time to celebrate the work that God has done in your life, church, and community? Who else needs to celebrate with you?

Prayer

Lord, may we always remember to celebrate all that you have done for us, in us, and through us.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 20: God Provides

Nehemiah 9:20a (CSB)

*20 You sent your good Spirit to instruct them.
You did not withhold your manna from their mouths,
and you gave them water for their thirst.*

Summary

During the national confession of sin, Nehemiah recalls how God previously provided instruction, food, and drink. May we never forget that, though we may not have all we want, God always provides that which we need. What else can we learn from this text?

Reflection

In what ways has God provided for you in the past that you may have overlooked? How can you be reminded of His provision moving forward?

Prayer

Lord, not only do You supply our physical needs, but you provide wisdom and direction. Help us to be mindful of all You provide, even when it's not easily visible.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 21: Fighting Through Discouragement

Nehemiah 6:9 (CSB)

9 For they were all trying to intimidate us, saying, "They will drop their hands from[a] the work, and it will never be finished."

But now, my God, strengthen my hands.

Summary

During the process of rebuilding the wall a number of attempts were made to discourage Nehemiah. However, Nehemiah remained steadfast seeking God for strength. What else do you see in this text?

Reflection

Have you ever allowed discouragement to slow you down or stop you in the past? Nehemiah's prayer for strength as the opposition increased serves as a reminder that the journey of rebuilding is ongoing. Acknowledge your need for God's strength in the continued journey ahead.

Prayer

Lord, as we move forward, we recognize our need for Your strength. Strengthen our hands for the work ahead, and may Your presence be our constant source of guidance and support. We trust in Your sustaining power. Amen..

In Jesus' Name, Amen.