

Lessons on Prayer from the life of Nehemiah

By Pastor Ashok Andrews

Part I

I just began reading the Book of Nehemiah today & could not resist sharing with you a few lessons on prayer that I am always confronted with when I read the 1st Chapter of Nehemiah.

Lesson 1: Effective Prayer is rooted in **CONCERN**

Even before Nehemiah prayed, his heart was **CONCERNED** & **BURDENED** for his people.

Note-

Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 1:2

Note-

- 1) I asked them about the Jews
- 2) How were things in Jerusalem

It was this **CONCERN** that propelled Nehemiah to his knees before God.

I have often felt that I pray with greater Fervour & Focus when I have to pray for people close to my heart- my wife/ girls...

Why??- A heart of **CONCERN**

As we pray today, may we ask God to fill our heart with a renewed burden & genuine **CONCERN** for the people & matters we will intercede about!!

May our love, care, friendship,

CONCERN lead us to bow our knees in seeking the God of heavens armies!!

Lessons on Prayer from the life of Nehemiah

Part II

Lesson 2: *Check your **POSTURE BOW** Down*

*When I heard this, I **SAT DOWN** and **WEPT**.*

Nehemiah 1:4

NOTE Nehemiah-

- 1) **SAT DOWN**- Bowed down/ Humbled myself
- 2) **WEPT**- Cried/ Felt overwhelmed by my sinfulness & God's Holiness

This is what Biblical Praying looks like!!

I must confess that I have often been guilty of thinking that-

- 1) I can shout at God & He has to hear me
- 2) Demand my rights in prayer
- 3) Command God to keep His promises

but the more I read His Word, the more I realise- Prayer is about-Bowing down before the great I AM!! Submitting to His grand purposes!! Falling before Him in Surrender!

Let's **BOW** down in prayer-

- 1) **B** ROKENNESS
- 2) **O** BEDIENCE
- 3) **W** ILL- His will not mine



Lessons on Prayer from the life of Nehemiah

Part III

Lesson 3: **CONSISTENCY** in PRAYING

*When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, **for days** I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.*

Nehemiah 1:4

NOTE:

- 1) Nehemiah prayed for days- Prayer was not a momentary exercise but a daily seeking of God.
- 2) As you read the Book of Nehemiah you realise that every day & every decision was walked in prayer

When Nehemiah

- * Was broken-hearted
- * Unsure
- * In need of Direction

he prayed for days!!

In our day & age of quick fixes I am so often guilty of-

- * Being impatient
- * Wanting immediate results
- * Questioning why it should take God this long to answer.....

Biblical PRAYING is about CONSISTENTLY seeking GOD- He knows- the Way/ the Best Time/ the End from the Beginning!



Lessons on Prayer from the life of Nehemiah

Part IV

Lesson 4: **FERVENCY** in **PRAYING**

*When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I **MOURNED**, **FASTED**, and **PRAYED** to the God of heaven.*

Nehemiah 1:4

Biblical Praying is serious stuff!! It involves all of me!! Note how Nehemiah **PRAYED**-

Mourned- Brokenness/ Unworthiness/ Awe of God

Fasted- God you are more important than my desires (food, water...)

Prayed- Seeking/ Submitting/ Surrendering

I ask myself- Am I truly serious about **PRAYER**?

I must confess that my praying is often Soft/ Superficial/ Scanty-
Lord help me to truly **PRAY**!!

Corrie Ten Boom once asked-

*Is prayer your **STEERING WHEEL** or **SPARE TYRE**???*



Lessons on Prayer from the life of Nehemiah

Part V

Lesson 5: Effective Prayer begins with the recognition of who God is???

This is how Nehemiah began his Prayer-

O LORD , GOD of HEAVEN, the GREAT and AWESOME GOD

Nehemiah 1:5

As Nehemiah prayed, he acknowledged that he was trusting in- THE

- 1) GOD OF HEAVEN
- 2) GREAT & AWESOME GOD

What an important reminder- We pray knowing that GOD is ALMIGHTY- the ONE to whom nothing is impossible!! Alleluia!!

REMEMBER- The ALMIGHTY GOD- listens to our cry!!

