

Bible Character Study

Nehemiah | Nehemiah 1:3-7 & 11; 2:3-4; 4:4-6 & 16-21

Trials Deepen Our Prayer Life

What is your first response when you encounter difficult news or various trials? Do you ask God for wisdom and seek Him for direction? Trials often drive us to our knees in prayer as we seek the Lord for strength, help, comfort, etc. Don't wait for trials to come to start praying, but definitely allow your prayer life to be deepened as a result of trials.

Nehemiah 1:5-6 (NLT) *"O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands, ⁶listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned!"*

James 5:13a (NLT) *"Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray."*

James 4:2 (NLT) *"Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart."*

Psalms 50:15 (NLT) *"Then call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory."*

Jeremiah 29:12 (NLT) *"In those days when you pray, I will listen."*

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT) *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."*

Trials Spur Us On to Action

Trials can spur us on to action to bring about change that takes us in a new direction. As we lead others, we need to be connected to the source of truth, God and His Word, so we trust Him for our every move.

Colossians 3:17 *“And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.”*

James 2:14 (NLT) *“What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?”*

James 2:25 (NLT) *“Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road.”*

1 Peter 1:13-14 (NLT) *“So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. ¹⁴ So you must live as God’s obedient children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn’t know any better then.”*

Revelation 3:2-3 (NLT) *“Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead. I find that your actions do not meet the requirements of my God. ³ Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again. If you don’t wake up, I will come to you suddenly, as unexpected as a thief.”*

Psalms 119:4-6 (NLT) *“You have charged us to keep your commandments carefully. ⁵ Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect your decrees! ⁶ Then I will not be ashamed when I compare my life with your commands.”*

Nehemiah 4:17 (NLT) *“The laborers carried on their work with one hand supporting their load and one hand holding a weapon.”*

Trials Teach Us How to Deal With the Enemy

Are you prepared to deal with attacks from the enemy? Do you understand how devious Satan is? He wants to destroy us, divide us, and defeat us. In order to deal with trials in a godly way, we need to be prepared, humble, and armored up so we can resist the devil's schemes to drag us down.

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT) *“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.”*

James 4:7 (NLT) *“So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NLT) *“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”*

Romans 16:20 (NLT) *“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.”*

Notes:

Reflection and Response from This Week’s Lesson:

What’s my take-away and how will I practice trusting God more through my custom-designed trials?

