

Victory Connect Lesson
Nehemiah Series: The Beauty of a Divine Burden
Pastor Paul Daugherty
August 6, 2023

Introduction: God gave Nehemiah a divine burden to rebuild, renew and restore the walls of Jerusalem. Faith is willing to confront the facts. What if a problem you are facing is an invitation to be a part of God's answer? God's promise is "If you return, I will restore." [Neh 1:9 KJV]

Eight Ways God Gives us a Beautiful Divine Burden

Key Verse for #1-4: [Neh 1:4 KJV] 4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and **wept**, and **mourned** [certain] days, and **fasted**, and **prayed** before the God of heaven,

1. Tears. Hagar, Hannah and Nehemiah all wept. What is it that breaks your heart?

2. Contemplation. Quiet time with you and God alone. It has been said that "Solitude is the furnace of transformation." How do you see the world's problems? Vision sees beyond the problem to the solution.

3. Fasting. Allowing your appetite to be interrupted sharpens your spiritual "axe".

4. Prayer. Prayer initiates the fulfillment of the answer.

5. Repentance. [Neh 1:6 KJV] 6 ...I pray before thee now, ...and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee...

6. Remember the covenant of God's love.
[Neh 1:9 KJV] 9 But [if] ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; ...[yet] will I gather...and will bring them (you) unto the place that I have chosen...

7. Surrender. Nehemiah appealed directly to the King.

8. Courage. Courage means to act in spite of the fear.

[Neh 2:5 KJV] 5 And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.

Discussion Questions:

1. Is there a problem you need to confront with faith?
2. Are there walls in your life that need to be rebuilt?
3. What is it that moves you more than anything else?

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