

# *Everything Starts with Prayer*

Nehemiah 1

Pew Bible page # 549

- God did some incredible things through Nehemiah, but here's what we need to understand - it all started with prayer.
- From Genesis to Revelation, there are two common threads when it comes to prayer.
  1. First, God \_\_\_\_\_ to have His people pray to Him.
  2. Second, God \_\_\_\_\_ prayer.

**Every time we pray, there are three vital truths we must remember.**

**God is \_\_\_\_\_ . vs. 5**

- All the spiritual blessings and privileges we have in Christ are ours \_\_\_\_\_. Romans 8:35-39 affirms that nothing can separate us from His \_\_\_\_\_.
- *"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."*  
**1 Corinthians 1:9**
- *"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."*  
**1 Thessalonians 5:24**

**God is \_\_\_\_\_ . vs. 6a**

- You will never find in any of Paul's epistles to the church a request for God to open His eyes or His ears to believers. You will never find God's eyes or ears being \_\_\_\_\_ to His children. Why is this?
- If you are saved, you have actually been given a position of oneness with Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 5:30-32). Your identity is \_\_\_\_\_.
- For God to \_\_\_\_\_ you access to Himself, He would have to deny His very Son, Jesus Christ.
- *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."* **1 Timothy 2:5**
- Our unique position of being in Christ insures us total, unhindered \_\_\_\_\_ into God's presence.
- *"For through him (Christ) we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father."* **Ephesians 2:18**
- *"In whom (Christ) we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him."* **Ephesians 3:12**

**God is \_\_\_\_\_ . vs. 6b**

- If you have accepted Christ as your personal Savior and have been made righteous in Him, you have total and complete \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.
- *"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."* **Ephesians 1:7**

# *How to Have an Effective Prayer Life*

Nehemiah 1:5-11

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- Nehemiah is an Old Testament Jew, praying under the Old Testament law economy. We must keep this in mind. But there are some wonderful lessons that we can learn and apply to our lives as we study Nehemiah's prayer life.

**If we desire to have an effective prayer life, we must pray:**

## **Earnestly - vs. 6**

- Just as Nehemiah was earnest, Paul taught the church that we are to be earnest in our prayer lives.
- *"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."* **Ephesians 6:18**

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## **- vs. 7**

- When you talk to God, you can lay open your \_\_\_\_\_ before Him.
- *"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved."* **Romans 10:1**

## Intelligently - vs. 8-9

- Just as Nehemiah knew God's Word to him and his people, we must know God's Word and God's promises to us today.
- Just as Moses was Nehemiah's spokesman for his day, \_\_\_\_\_ is our spokesman.
- *"For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office."*  
**Romans 11:13**
- *"Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me."*  
**1 Corinthians 4:16**
- A believer today should make a thorough \_\_\_\_\_ of Paul's thirteen letters and understand the commandments and promises that God has given to us through Paul.

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## \_\_\_\_\_ - vs. 10-11

- Does God want us to pray about the details of our lives?
- *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."* **Philippians 4:6**
- Based on your redeemed position in Christ, you can go to God and talk to Him about every \_\_\_\_\_ of your life.

# Colossians - Chapter 1

## “Teach us How to Pray, Paul”

### Colossians 1:9-10

#### Verse 9

1. Since Paul had heard of the salvation of these people, he had regularly prayed for them.
2. Passages such as this give us great insight into Paul's prayer life.
  - Paul's prayers were constantly focused on the \_\_\_\_\_ welfare of believers.
3. Paul desired that these converts be filled (fully furnished) with the knowledge of God's will.
4. How do we discover how we \_\_\_\_\_ into God's objective, purpose, and plan for this present time period?
  - Paul says that it comes through \_\_\_\_\_ and spiritual understanding. cf. Ephesians 5:17
  - Paul constantly prayed for this when praying for other believers. Ephesians 1:17-18
5. How do I grow in wisdom and spiritual understanding? I grow as I study and learn God's Word. God's \_\_\_\_\_ reveals God's will.  
2 Timothy 3:15-16
  - I understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of God as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God teaches me the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - All of God's Word is profitable, but Paul's prayer and passion was that believers would understand God's \_\_\_\_\_ that had been revealed through him for this present dispensation.  
cf. 1:25-26, 2:2-3
6. As we read God's Word and understand Paul's mystery, we begin to be filled with the knowledge of God's will, and then we can take that knowledge and \_\_\_\_\_ it to the details of our lives with wisdom.

## Verse 10

1. Without a proper spiritual understanding from God's Word it doesn't matter how sincere you are. You will end up off course, \_\_\_\_\_, and counterproductive in God's work.

- As we read and gain understanding into God's plan and purpose for \_\_\_\_\_ (revealed through Paul), it serves as a compass that directs us and helps us in our decision making and prioritizing.
- It is by Christ's revelations through \_\_\_\_\_ that we learn how to walk and to please God.
- *“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.”*

### **1 Thessalonians 4:1**

2. There were three key words in verses 9-10: wisdom, walk, and work. The order of these is extremely important.

- As I am filled with God's \_\_\_\_\_, I can \_\_\_\_\_ with God and, in turn, I can effectively \_\_\_\_\_ for God, bearing spiritual fruit.
- This was the focus of Paul's prayer life as he prayed for others.