

SERMON NOTES

**Title: The Often-Overlooked
Benefits of Prayer**

Text: Nehemiah 1:4-7

Topic: Prayer

Teacher: Pastor Barry

Time: 1/29/23. File Under: Christian Living



In 458 BC, Ezra leads a **second** group of exiles to Jerusalem and is **appalled** at what he finds. (Ezra 9:15)

13 years later, a group from Jerusalem arrives in Persia with news the walls are **still broken down**. Nehemiah is **appalled**. (Nehemiah 1:4-7)

Nehemiah travels to Jerusalem and divides the people into **small groups** to begin building the wall.

They immediately face **opposition** but they **persevere** and “...the wall was completed in fifty-two days.”

Nehemiah’s story is about the power of **prayer** and the often overlooked benefits of prayer

PRAYER GIVES US **VISION** TO SEE THE WILL OF GOD.

Their prayers are **fervent** and full of **repentance**.

The height of our spiritual **renewal** will be determined by the depth of our personal **repentance**.

PRAYER GIVES US **WISDOM** TO UNDERSTAND THE WILL OF GOD.

Nehemiah wanted to know **God’s will**.

Wisdom enables us to understand God’s will.

PRAYER GIVES US **COURAGE**... to believe **God’s Word**.

We will encounter **opposition**. But caution: Choose your battles wisely. Sometimes you **speak up** for the cause. Sometimes you **patiently wait** for the right moment.

Nehemiah stayed **on task**. He increased the number of guards and **pressed on** saying, “...*Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome*...” Nehemiah 4:13

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you...If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.” I Peter 4:12-14

There are folks out there trying to **keep you from** “building the wall”.

No worries, we have a **great and awesome** God.