



**Leadership Principles from Nehemiah**  
**Lesson 2: The Call of God & the Power of Prayer**

**1. The need is the call for true leader.**

Nehemiah is the greatest book in the Bible about \_\_\_\_\_

It tells the story about a man who stepped in to his calling and changed a city.

He was living a comfortable life. But everything changed when he was informed about the walls of Jerusalem that lay in ruins.

Nehemiah's life was good:

- He is living in the palace.
- He has a great job.
- He is right next to the most powerful man in the world.
- He has authority.
- He has power.
- He has good food to eat and a nice comfortable bed to sleep in.
- He has people that wait on him and take care of him.

**Nehemiah 1:1-5**

Visitors from Jerusalem came to the palace, and Nehemiah made inquiry of them about Jerusalem and the condition of the remnant that had returned. When he learned about the danger his people were in because the walls and gates of Jerusalem are still in shambles, Nehemiah began to weep, mourn, and fast. Then he prayed.

Nehemiah's life was good. But something happened.

Nehemiah becomes sad, mourns, fasts, and prays.

Why? – \_\_\_\_\_

His personal life is okay. But he gets unhappy because he hears of the pain in other people's lives.

He learns of the sad state of Jerusalem and it grieves his heart.

Nehemiah realized that his life could be better.

As long as you are content with what you already have, you will never build a better life and live in the calling God has for you. You will stay right where you are.

Many times we over spiritualize the call of God.

A leader will often see the need and that need becomes the call of God.

For many seeking the call of God in their lives, the call is right in front of them every day.

The news that Nehemiah received \_\_\_\_\_

## **2. A leaders is moved with compassion.**

Nehemiah was also moved by compassion. He had a love for the people in Jerusalem and was concerned for their safety. With the walls broken down, they were vulnerable to their enemies.

This was often seen in the ministry of Jesus.

### **Matthew 9:36-38**

A leader today, like Jesus and Nehemiah, must be moved with compassion for people who are lost without Jesus.

This is something that cannot be forgotten. If we forget the purpose for the ministry, we will get burned out. It is always about the harvest.

Every time Jesus was moved with compassion \_\_\_\_\_

Greek definition of MOVED WITH COMPASSION: \_\_\_\_\_

The word refers to a bowel movement.

The movement of your bowels produces action. Likewise, when a person is moved with compassion for people, it causes a movement.

True compassion produces action.

It moves you to change their situation.

In Nehemiah's prayer we can see his focus on meeting the need and his compassion for people.

### **Nehemiah 1:5-11**

#### **3. A leader is a person of prayer.**

There are several qualities of a leader we can see in Nehemiah's prayer. However, the most obvious is that he was a man of prayer.

Prayer is the foundation. It is a necessity.

Every great man and woman of the Bible and throughout church history were people of prayer. Excuse cannot be made. Prayer and reading the Word of God are the fundamentals.

Everything in your life as a leader flows from the inside to the outside.

If you do not develop \_\_\_\_\_, you will not be \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus Himself considered His time of prayer with the Father of utmost importance.

### **Luke 6:12**

### **Matthew 14:23**

Paul the Apostle emphasized the importance of prayer throughout the New Testament. Not only is prayer important for the believer, it is necessary for the leader. A leader must be filled with power that only comes in God's presence and also pray for the people he is leading.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

### **Colossians 1:9**

### **2 Thessalonians 1:11**

Hudson Taylor, who brought hundreds of missionaries to China, had one of the busiest daily schedules of any missionary. He made prayer a priority by often praying in the middle of the night so nobody would disturb him.

### **Quotes from Hudson Taylor about prayer**

“Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him.”

When sending preachers into new Chinese provinces he said:  
 “Brother, if you would enter that province, you must go forward on your knees.”

### **Quote from Smith Wigglesworth**

“I don’t often spend more than half an hour in prayer at one time, but I never go more than half an hour without praying.”

#### **4. A leader is humble.**

We can also see from this prayer that Nehemiah was humble.

Nehemiah pleads with God and confesses his sins and those of his people.

#### **Nehemiah 1:6, 7**

When facing problems in our cities and nations, it is important to have a humble attitude of repentance. Even though Nehemiah technically did nothing wrong, he included himself in this prayer of repentance.

Daniel did the same thing when praying for the people of Israel.

#### **Daniel 9:3-5**

#### **Daniel 9:9, 10**

In Daniel chapter ten we can see that Daniel’s prayer was answered with an angelic visitation.

His prayer of repentance actually \_\_\_\_\_  
 over the region.

Paul the Apostle was humble.

#### **Acts 20:18, 19**

#### **1 Peter 5:5, 6**

#### **Philippians 2:8**

#### **Matthew 23:12**

Humility must be cultivated. This happens in our prayer life. Prayer shows our dependence on God. When we do not spend time in prayer we are telling God that we can do it all without Him.

Humility birthed in prayer creates a greater anointing upon a leader.

## 5. A leader is a person of faith.

Nehemiah's prayer reveals that he is a person of faith.

### **Nehemiah 1:8-11**

Nehemiah was confident that God wanted to use him. Because he called himself a servant.

### **Nehemiah 1:10**

Nehemiah was a person of faith. He takes God at his word because he understands his covenant. His understanding of the covenant is revealed in verse 5 of his prayer.

### **Nehemiah 1:5**

In many ways we can compare the faith of Nehemiah to the faith of Abraham and Sarah. The truths found in both of their lives are important for today's leaders.

### **Hebrews 11:8**

- \_\_\_\_\_

Many people know they are called but do not step out in faith for a variety of reasons.

Many times it is a lack of faith.

Faith never says, "But"

- \_\_\_\_\_

A person of faith separates himself.

Abraham left Ur to go where God was leading him.

Ur was a place of beauty. Ur had riches, gold, cobblestone streets, and a sewage system below street level.

In order to follow God's plan, you may have to give up some of the pleasures of life.

This was also true of Nehemiah.

He had a good job in the palace with the king. He was comfortable. But God was calling him.

You must be willing. The calling of God must be of more importance than "things".

### **Hebrews 11:11**

- \_\_\_\_\_

It takes more than compassion to make a difference. We must also have faith.

In Hebrews 11:11 we see that Sarah received strength to conceive seed.

Many times we view faith as a tool to receive from God. However, as a leader it is important to understand that this is just the beginning stages of faith.

Faith is not meant to only receive from God. Faith is given to us so that we can have the strength to do something for God.

There is a strength that comes from believing God's word and acting on it.

Noah built the ark

### **Hebrews 11:11 – Amplified Bible**

*Because of faith also Sarah herself received physical power to conceive a child . . .*

Definition of STENGTH (Greek – Dunamis):

- \_\_\_\_\_

- Miraculous power
- Ability

- \_\_\_\_\_

- Strength

The most famous verse where the word “dunamis” is found in the Bible is in Acts chapter 1.

### **Acts 1:8**

- **How do we receive anything from God?** – \_\_\_\_\_

### **Hebrews 11:6**

We know we receive by faith, but exactly how do we receive?

### **Hebrews 11:11**

### **Acts 1:8**

Definition of RECEIVE:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- To get ahold of
- \_\_\_\_\_

The Greek word for “receive” is an active, not a passive word.

It means to get ahold of it or take it for yourself.

To “receive” power and strength we must take it by faith.

- We receive power and strength.
- We receive power to do something.

The power and strength is supernatural ability \_\_\_\_\_

This is what separates a leader from the average person.

A leader understands that faith needs to be used to help others. They reach beyond themselves. Their faith is focused on receiving strength and power from God to help others.

It is true that faith is resting in the promises of God. However, if faith was about resting, it would not be compared to a shield that quenches all the flaming arrows of the devil.

### **Ephesians 6:16**

“Taking” the shield of faith

The word “taking” is the same Greek word as “receive”. However, it is a compound Greek word, with a prefix added to it which implies a repeated action with intensity.

In other words, you have to pick up your shield when it gets knocked down. It is a conscious decision to never allow yourself to put your shield to the side. You must pick it up every day as you lead others.