

Nehemiah 2:1-8 \\ Standing Before the King \\ 1-22-23 @ RCBC

In the middle of an extremely important conversation with the king, Nehemiah stops to pray, *again*.

Romans 8:26-27 – *“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words**. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God**.”*

Luke 12:11-12 – *“And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for **the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say**.”*

In the moments when you feel inadequate and inept, when you pray, the Lord is _____.

Nehemiah’s respectful of authority, and not trying to deceive the king. He wants to rebuild the walls and the city.

“It pleased the king to send me”: Nehemiah’s compassionate heart, months of dedicated prayer & fasting, quick and hopeful prayer, obvious faith, big vision for the wall-building project, and wise responses were all met positively by the king.

Nehemiah spent months in prayer, but also in _____. [v.7-8]

This isn’t a surprise because *God always has a plan*.

- Psalm 33:11, *“The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.”*
- Proverbs 21:5, *“The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.”*

“Sometimes it may seem that God blesses a lack of planning, and sometimes it seems God does a blessed work completely different from what we have planned. But in every case, God works through planning – if not our planning, then certainly His planning. As a general principle, God wants to train us up into the work of being planners, just as He is a planner. There may be sometimes when we simply can’t plan for every outcome, but we should never reject planning.” – David Guzik

Nehemiah requests:

- official approval of the project to show area leaders
- passports to travel freely where he needs to go
- timber for the gates and walls of the city
- materials for his own house that he’ll need to build

Nehemiah wasn’t trying to take advantage of the king in requesting these things. He showed honor to the king and invited him to *participate* in a worthy work. The king granted Nehemiah’s request because *“the good hand of my God was upon me”*.

God can _____ for our needs in totally unexpected or unlikely ways.

Nehemiah was physically standing before the king of Persia, but he was actually standing before the King of _____.

When he’s offering his prayer to the King of all and when he’s making his requests to the king of Persia, he knows that his life ultimately lies in the hands of God.

Nehemiah understands that the all-powerful, providentially sovereign God of the universe & everything in it is *his* God. The phrase “my God” is used over 130 times in the OT.

- Psalm 18:1-2, “I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

Nehemiah 1:10 emphasizes over and over that Nehemiah and the people belonged to the Lord – they were **His**.

Nehemiah 2:8 emphasizes that **God is a** _____ **God who is** _____.

Two things to remember this week:

- *God really does answer prayer.*
- *God really is good.*

“The _____ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom. 6:23)

You don’t work for a gift – you simply *receive* it. Receive the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ today, and when you do – the good God becomes *your* God, and He leads you into righteousness for His name’s sake.

Additional Notes: _____