



Surprised by The Power of Prayer

February 16, 2020

Surprises... A Way of Life!

Nehemiah's Surprising Story!

Nehemiah 1:6-7

⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's family, have committed against you. ⁷ We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

Powerful Prayer Lesson from Nehemiah

1. [Confession](#) Without [Caution!](#)

Nehemiah 1:8-9

⁸ "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, ⁹ but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'"

Powerful Prayer Lesson from Nehemiah

2. Pray [God's Promises](#)

Nehemiah 1:11

¹¹ "Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man."

Powerful Prayer Lesson from Nehemiah

3. Ask for [Success](#) and [Favor](#)

Nehemiah 2:4-5

⁴ The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵ and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it."

Powerful Prayer Lesson from Nehemiah

4. Pray [In](#) the [Moment](#)

Nehemiah 4:4-5

⁴ Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. ⁵ Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders.

Powerful Prayer Lesson from Nehemiah

5. Pray [Boldly](#) for [Justice](#) (then leave it in the [hands](#) of God)!

Nehemiah 6:9

⁹ They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed." But I prayed, "Now strengthen my hands."

Powerful Prayer Lesson from Nehemiah

6. Pray for [Power](#)

Nehemiah 9:3

³ They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshiping the Lord their God.

Powerful Prayer Lesson from Nehemiah

7. Combine [Prayer](#) and God's [Word](#)

Nehemiah 9:33-35

³³ "In all that has happened to us, you have remained righteous; you have acted faithfully, while we acted wickedly. ³⁴ Our kings, our leaders, our priests and our ancestors did not follow your law; they did not pay attention to your commands or the statutes you warned them to keep. ³⁵ Even while they were in their kingdom, enjoying your great goodness to them in the spacious and fertile land you gave them, they did not serve you or turn from their evil ways."

Powerful Prayer Lesson from Nehemiah

8. Lift Up [Honest Historical](#) Prayers (No [revisionist](#) history before God)

Nehemiah 12:27

²⁷ At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres.

Powerful Prayer Lesson from Nehemiah

9. The Power of [Praise](#) and [Celebration](#)!

Prayer is life and life is prayer!