

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

RESTORED

LESSONS IN NEHEMIAH

Lesson 14 – Godly Repentance

Nehemiah 9:1-17

Chapter 9 records the longest prayer in the Bible. Although it is a prayer, it is also a lesson in history. The Jews had a long record of failure. They walked with God and worshipped Him, but then over time they became careless and wandered away from Him. They repeated this pattern over and over. Each time they humbled themselves and returned to the Lord with a heart of Godly repentance, He was there to forgive and restore them. This chapter reminds us of God's greatness, goodness and ultimately His amazing grace. Stop and think about that for a moment – failure doesn't have to be the end of our story either! God is good to us even when we are not good to Him. He never gives us what we really deserve. Instead, He gives us grace. In spite of our failures, He is ever ready to forgive and give us a fresh start. That's what restoration is all about!

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

This Week's Scripture: Nehemiah 9:1-17

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads. ²Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. ³And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshipped the LORD their God. ⁴Then Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani stood on the stairs of the Levites and cried out with a loud voice to the LORD their God. ⁵And the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said: "Stand up and bless the LORD your God Forever and ever! "Blessed be Your glorious name, Which is exalted above all blessing and praise! ⁶You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You. ⁷"You are the LORD God, Who chose Abram, And brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans, And gave him the name Abraham; ⁸You found his heart faithful before You, And made a covenant with him To give the land of the Canaanites, The Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, And the Girgashites—To give it to his descendants. You have performed Your words, For You are righteous. ⁹"You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt, And heard their cry by the Red Sea. ¹⁰You showed signs and wonders against Pharaoh, Against all his servants, And

against all the people of his land. For You knew that they acted proudly against them. So You made a name for Yourself, as it is this day. ¹¹ And You divided the sea before them, So that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; And their persecutors You threw into the deep, As a stone into the mighty waters. ¹² Moreover You led them by day with a cloudy pillar, And by night with a pillar of fire, To give them light on the road Which they should travel. ¹³ “You came down also on Mount Sinai, And spoke with them from heaven, And gave them just ordinances and true laws, Good statutes and commandments. ¹⁴ You made known to them Your holy Sabbath, And commanded them precepts, statutes and laws, By the hand of Moses Your servant. ¹⁵ You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, And brought them water out of the rock for their thirst, And told them to go in to possess the land Which You had sworn to give them. ¹⁶ “But they and our fathers acted proudly, Hardened their necks, And did not heed Your commandments. ¹⁷ They refused to obey, And they were not mindful of Your wonders That You did among them. But they hardened their necks, And in their rebellion They appointed a leader To return to their bondage. But You are God, Ready to pardon, Gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, Abundant in kindness, And did not forsake them.

This Week’s Memory Verse:

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14(NKJV)

1. Nehemiah 9 opens with the Israelites recognizing their sins and responding in godly repentance. They were truly sorry for their disobedience and humbled themselves. From 2 Corinthians 7:10-11, what does godly sorrow produce in our lives? _____

2. God is the main character of this chapter. In the recorded prayer, His long and gracious history with Israel is recounted. Read Nehemiah 9:9-12 and list some of the ways God displayed His love for the people of Israel. _____

3. Read Nehemiah 9:16-17 and answer the questions below.
 - a. What was the people’s response to God’s goodness towards them? _____

 - b. What was God’s response to them despite their rebellion? _____

 - c. What does God’s response teach you about His love? _____

3. No matter how often we may fail in our walk with God, never forget that God will always remain faithful to you. Read Deuteronomy 7:9 and describe the extent of God's faithfulness. _____

Reflect and Respond – God's people humbled themselves by praying, confessing their sins and walking in obedience. When we follow this same pattern, 2 Chronicles 7:14 assures that God responds and is pleased. Look at our memory verse again and share the ways God responds to humility. Now, consider your walk and ask the Holy Spirit if there is an area in which God is calling you to humble yourself. _____

Result – Consider today's Bible study lecture and group time. What one lesson will you take away from this study and apply to your walk with the Lord? _____
