
GOD'S PURPOSE: SPIRITUAL REAWAKENING



NEW BEGINNINGS

SERIES

NEHEMIAH 6 - 13

Nehemiah 6:15

So on October 2 the wall was finished, just fifty-two days after we had begun.

Nehemiah 6:16

When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.

Sermon Series Recap

If we want to be sure that the new beginning we seek is truly God's will when it comes to rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God; there will always be 4 criteria that must be met.

New beginnings which require rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God require getting started right by building on the right foundation.

**Rebuilding, restoring, and
revitalizing with God requires that
we faithfully execute God
honoring steps while we work
towards our goal.**

Becoming, being, and building a Holy Spirit led team is what adds fuel to the process of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God; and it is what keeps it moving towards a successful completion.

Rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God requires that we empower God's team for victory by letting go of control without letting go of our accountability, passion, and commitment to see the project completed right.

The new beginnings that God offers us where He invites us to rebuild, restore, and revitalize with Him requires that we overcome malicious and persistent opposition.

When we are in the process of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God; we must understand that conflicts, challenges, and the 5 f's (fear, fatigue, frustration, fury, and fighting) will always be present and will come in waves.

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God's ultimate purpose in ushering you into a successful new beginning is to lead you into a spiritual reawakening.

The 8 Evidences of a Spiritual Reawakening

Evidence #1

When we are spiritually reawakened through a victorious new beginning of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God; we know beyond the shadow of a doubt that the success we received was ALL because of God.

Nehemiah 6:15

So on October 2 the wall was finished, just fifty-two days after we had begun.

Nehemiah 6:16

When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.





Evidence #2

When we are spiritually reawakened through a victorious new beginning of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God; we discover who the members of God's Holy Spirit led team really are.

Nehemiah 7:1

After the wall was finished and I had set up the doors in the gates, the gatekeepers, singers, and Levites were appointed.

Nehemiah 7:2

I gave the responsibility of governing Jerusalem to my brother Hanani, along with Hananiah, the commander of the fortress, for he was a faithful man who feared God more than most.

Nehemiah 7:3a

I said to them, “Do not leave the gates open during the hottest part of the day. And even while the gatekeepers are on duty, have them shut and bar the doors.

Nehemiah 7:3b

Appoint the residents of Jerusalem to act as guards, everyone on a regular watch.

Some will serve at sentry posts and some in front of their own homes.”

Nehemiah 7:4

At that time the city was large and spacious, but the population was small, and none of the houses had been rebuilt.

Nehemiah 7:5a

So my God gave me the idea to call together all the nobles and leaders of the city, along with the ordinary citizens, for registration.

Nehemiah 7:5b

I had found the genealogical record of those who had first returned to Judah. This is what was written there:

Nehemiah 7:6

Here is the list of the Jewish exiles of the provinces who returned from their captivity. King Nebuchadnezzar had deported them to Babylon, but now they returned to Jerusalem and the other towns in Judah where they originally lived.

Nehemiah 7:7

Their leaders were Zerubbabel,
Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah,
Reelaiah, Nahamani, Mordecai,
Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum,
and Baanah.

Nehemiah 7:66-67

So a total of 42,360 people returned to Judah, 67 in addition to 7,337 servants and 245 singers, both men and women.

Nehemiah 7:73

So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the Temple servants, and some of the common people settled near Jerusalem. The rest of the people returned to their own towns throughout Israel.

Evidence #3

When we are spiritually reawakened through a victorious new beginning of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God; we become passionate about knowing, understanding, and delighting in the Word of God.

Nehemiah 8:1a

In October, when the Israelites had settled in their towns, all the people assembled with a unified purpose at the square just inside the Water Gate.

Nehemiah 8:1b

They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had given for Israel to obey.

Nehemiah 8:2

So on October 8 Ezra the priest brought the Book of the Law before the assembly, which included the men and women and all the children old enough to understand.

Nehemiah 8:3

He faced the square just inside the Water Gate from early morning until noon and read aloud to everyone who could understand. All the people listened closely to the Book of the Law.

Nehemiah 8:4

Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. To his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah. To his left stood Pedaiah, Mishaal, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam.

Nehemiah 8:5

Ezra stood on the platform in full view of all the people. When they saw him open the book, they all rose to their feet.

Nehemiah 8:6

Then Ezra praised the Lord, the great God, and all the people chanted, “Amen! Amen!” as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

Nehemiah 8:7

The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pellaiah—then instructed the people in the Law while everyone remained in their places.

Nehemiah 8:8

They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage.

Evidence #4

When we are spiritually reawakened through a victorious new beginning of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God; we are overwhelmed by our need to celebrate the goodness of God and His faithfulness.

Nehemiah 8:9a

**Then Nehemiah the governor,
Ezra the priest and scribe, and
the Levites who were
interpreting for the people said
to them, “Don’t mourn or weep
on such a day as this!**

Nehemiah 8:9b

**For today is a sacred day
before the Lord your God.” For
the people had all been
weeping as they listened to the
words of the Law.**

Nehemiah 8:10a

And Nehemiah continued, “Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared.

Nehemiah 8:10b

This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!"

Nehemiah 8:11

And the Levites, too, quieted the people, telling them, “Hush! Don’t weep! For this is a sacred day.”

Nehemiah 8:12

So the people went away to eat and drink at a festive meal, to share gifts of food, and to celebrate with great joy because they had heard God's words and understood them.

Evidence #5

When we are spiritually reawakened through a victorious new beginning of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God; we are compelled to confess and to worship.

Nehemiah 9:1

On October 31 the people assembled again, and this time they fasted and dressed in burlap and sprinkled dust on their heads.

Nehemiah 9:2

Those of Israelite descent separated themselves from all foreigners as they confessed their own sins and the sins of their ancestors.

Nehemiah 9:3

They remained standing in place for three hours while the Book of the Law of the Lord their God was read aloud to them. Then for three more hours they confessed their sins and worshiped the Lord their God.

Evidence #6

When we are spiritually reawakened through a victorious new beginning of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God; we develop a supernatural desire to pray and to praise.

Nehemiah 9:5a

**Then the leaders of the Levites—
Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani,
Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah,
Shebaniah, and Pethahiah—called
out to the people:**

Nehemiah 9:5b

“Stand up and praise the Lord your God, for he lives from everlasting to everlasting!” Then they prayed:

“May your glorious name be praised! May it be exalted above all blessing and praise!

Nehemiah 9:6

You alone are the Lord. You made the skies and the heavens and all the stars. You made the earth and the seas and everything in them. You preserve them all, and the angels of heaven worship you.

Nehemiah 9:7

You are the Lord God, who chose Abram and brought him from Ur of the Chaldeans and renamed him Abraham.

Nehemiah 9:8a

When he had proved himself faithful, you made a covenant with him to give him and his descendants the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites,

Nehemiah 9:8b

**Perizzites, Jebusites, and
Girgashites. And you have done
what you promised, for you are
always true to your word.**

Nehemiah 9:9

**You saw the misery of our
ancestors in Egypt, and you
heard their cries from beside
the Red Sea.**

Nehemiah 9:10

You displayed miraculous signs and wonders against Pharaoh, his officials, and all his people, for you knew how arrogantly they were treating our ancestors. You have a glorious reputation that has never been forgotten.

Nehemiah 9:11

You divided the sea for your people so they could walk through on dry land! And then you hurled their enemies into the depths of the sea. They sank like stones beneath the mighty waters.

Nehemiah 9:12

You led our ancestors by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night so that they could find their way.

Nehemiah 9:13

**You came down at Mount Sinai
and spoke to them from
heaven. You gave them
regulations and instructions
that were just, and decrees and
commands that were good.**

Nehemiah 9:14

You instructed them concerning your holy Sabbath. And you commanded them, through Moses your servant, to obey all your commands, decrees, and instructions.

Nehemiah 9:15

You gave them bread from heaven when they were hungry and water from the rock when they were thirsty. You commanded them to go and take possession of the land you had sworn to give them.

Nehemiah 9:16

But our ancestors were proud and stubborn, and they paid no attention to your commands.

Nehemiah 9:17a

They refused to obey and did not remember the miracles you had done for them. Instead, they became stubborn and appointed a leader to take them back to their slavery in Egypt.

Nehemiah 9:17b

**But you are a God of forgiveness,
gracious and merciful, slow to
become angry, and rich in
unfailing love.**

Nehemiah 9:18

You did not abandon them, even when they made an idol shaped like a calf and said, 'This is your god who brought you out of Egypt!' They committed terrible blasphemies.

Nehemiah 9:19

But in your great mercy you did not abandon them to die in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud still led them forward by day, and the pillar of fire showed them the way through the night.

Nehemiah 9:20

You sent your good Spirit to instruct them, and you did not stop giving them manna from heaven or water for their thirst.

Nehemiah 9:21

For forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out, and their feet did not swell!

Nehemiah 9:22

Then you helped our ancestors conquer kingdoms and nations, and you placed your people in every corner of the land. They took over the land of King Sihon of Heshbon and the land of King Og of Bashan.

Nehemiah 9:23

**You made their descendants
as numerous as the stars in
the sky and brought them into
the land you had promised to
their ancestors.**

Nehemiah 9:24

They went in and took possession of the land. You subdued whole nations before them. Even the Canaanites, who inhabited the land, were powerless! Your people could deal with these nations and their kings as they pleased.

Nehemiah 9:25a

Our ancestors captured fortified cities and fertile land. They took over houses full of good things, with cisterns already dug and vineyards and olive groves and fruit trees in abundance.

Nehemiah 9:25b

**So they ate until they were full
and grew fat and enjoyed
themselves in all your blessings.**

Nehemiah 9:26

But despite all this, they were disobedient and rebelled against you. They turned their backs on your Law, they killed your prophets who warned them to return to you, and they committed terrible blasphemies.

Nehemiah 9:27

So you handed them over to their enemies, who made them suffer.

But in their time of trouble they cried to you, and you heard them from heaven. In your great mercy, you sent them liberators who rescued them from their enemies.

Nehemiah 9:28a

But as soon as they were at peace, your people again committed evil in your sight, and once more you let their enemies conquer them.

Nehemiah 9:28b

**Yet whenever your people turned
and cried to you again for help,
you listened once more from
heaven. In your wonderful mercy,
you rescued them many times!**

Nehemiah 9:29a

You warned them to return to your Law, but they became proud and obstinate and disobeyed your commands. They did not follow your regulations, by which people will find life if only they obey.

Nehemiah 9:29b

**They stubbornly turned their backs
on you and refused to listen.**

Nehemiah 9:30

In your love, you were patient with them for many years. You sent your Spirit, who warned them through the prophets. But still they wouldn't listen! So once again you allowed the peoples of the land to conquer them.

Nehemiah 9:31

But in your great mercy, you did not destroy them completely or abandon them forever. What a gracious and merciful God you are!

Nehemiah 9:32a

And now, our God, the great and mighty and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of unfailing love, do not let all the hardships we have suffered seem insignificant to you.

Nehemiah 9:32b

**Great trouble has come upon us
and upon our kings and leaders
and priests and prophets and
ancestors, all of your people, from
the days when the kings of Assyria
first triumphed over us until now.**

Nehemiah 9:33

Every time you punished us you were being just. We have sinned greatly, and you gave us only what we deserved.

Nehemiah 9:34

Our kings, leaders, priests, and ancestors did not obey your Law or listen to the warnings in your commands and laws.

Nehemiah 9:35

Even while they had their own kingdom, they did not serve you, though you showered your goodness on them. You gave them a large, fertile land, but they refused to turn from their wickedness.

Nehemiah 9:36

So now today we are slaves in the land of plenty that you gave our ancestors for their enjoyment! We are slaves here in this good land.

Nehemiah 9:37

The lush produce of this land piles up in the hands of the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They have power over us and our livestock. We serve them at their pleasure, and we are in great misery.”

Evidence #7

When we are spiritually reawakened through a victorious new beginning of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God; we freely rededicate ourselves to the Lord through obedience rooted in love.

Nehemiah 9:38

The people responded, “In view of all this, we are making a solemn promise and putting it in writing. On this sealed document are the names of our leaders and Levites and priests.”

Nehemiah 10:28a

**Then the rest of the people—the
priests, Levites, gatekeepers,
singers, Temple servants, and all
who had separated themselves
from the pagan people of the land
in order to obey the Law of God,**

Nehemiah 10:28b

**together with their wives, sons,
daughters, and all who were old
enough to understand— joined
their leaders and bound
themselves with an oath.**

Nehemiah 10:29a

They swore a curse on themselves if they failed to obey the Law of God as issued by his servant Moses.

Nehemiah 10:29b

**They solemnly promised to
carefully follow all the
commands, regulations, and
decrees of the Lord our Lord:**

Evidence #8

When we are spiritually reawakened through a victorious new beginning of rebuilding, restoring, and revitalizing with God; we love God infinitely more than we love the gifts, talents, abilities, and blessings He has graciously given us.

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