

# Trusting In God

Nehemiah 1:1-8

Through Nehemiah's times of prayer, God made it clear to him that when the opportunity arises as the king's cupbearer, he would approach the king with the request of allowing the Jews to rebuild the walls and the gates in the city of Jerusalem.

The Challenge: The king seems to be unreliable as his mood changes erratically. Artaxerxes is the same person who had become negative towards the Jews and decrees the ceasing of the rebuilding of the city walls, gates and the temple of God (Ezra 4:21), and then had a favourable attitude towards Jerusalem when he commissioned Ezra to help build a temple for Ezra's God in Jerusalem (Ezra 7:11-26). How will the king respond to Nehemiah's request?

## 1. Overcoming Paralyzing Fear vs. 1-3

The moment King Artaxerxes asked Nehemiah why he is sad, Nehemiah knew this was the opportunity that he requested from God, but he was very much afraid. However, Nehemiah chose to place his trust in God, he did not allow his fear's to be paralyzing, and began speaking with boldness with what God had convicted him to say.

Even though God will answer our prayers when we seek His will and provide the opportunities that are needed, everyone will still face fear. However, if we place our trust in God, we will speak with boldness with what God has convicted us to say.

## 2. Ongoing Prayerful Dependence vs. 4-5

As the king asked for clarity from Nehemiah in what he is requesting, Nehemiah continued to look to God in prayer and trusted that God would give him the words needed in that moment.

Prayer is meant to be ongoing. Not only does our prayer filled life display our trust in God, but it also gives us the confidence that our words and actions will be in step with God.

## 3. Outcome in God's Hand vs. 6-8

Nehemiah chose to ask for everything he needed so that the walls, the gates, and his home could be built, and that he would experience safe travels to Jerusalem. Why? Because the outcome is in God's hands.

Since our outcomes are in God's hands, we can step out in faith and trust that "God's Will" will prevail.

### Questions:

- Fear can be a natural reaction. However, God doesn't want us to allow our fear to control us. Instead, we are to trust God and not allow our fears to stop us. What are some things you may be afraid or nervous about, but God is convicting you to trust Him instead?
- Prayer displays our trust in "God's Will" and not our own. Prayer Keeps our focus on God; taking every thought captive to Him (2 Corinthians 10:5) and bring every situation, plan, fear, or concern before His throne. We direct our thoughts of praise, petition, supplication, and thanksgiving to God. Does my prayer life display my complete trust in God? What can I do to strengthen my relationship with God regarding prayer?
- Nehemiah wasn't afraid to make big requests. We know he had already prayed and prayerfully prepared for the meeting with the king. Trusting in God is not an excuse for a lack of preparation, but rather a reason to prepare all the more because we believe that God will give us a chance to put those plans into action. How does one prepare for the plans that God reveals to us?