

“God’s Work in Our Hearts Through Confession”

Nehemiah 9

SPIRITUAL REVIVAL

1. Revival in Nehemiah is illustrated in chapters 8-12

- Hearing and receiving God’s Word. Chap. 8
- Confession of sin and sorrow for sin. Chapter 9
- Re-commitment to relationship (covenant) with God. Chapters 10-12

2. True spiritual revival begins with God’s Word being heard, resulting in conviction of sin.

- Sin can only be exposed from God’s Word.
- ‘Sin is any lack of conformity to or transgression of the Law of God.’

ALL THE PEOPLE CONFESS THEIR SINS. v.1-5

1. Immediately after celebrating the Feast of Booths the people gathered to confess their sin. v.1

- Fasting, sackcloth, and earth (dirt, dust) on their heads. Signifies distress/need, humility, and mortality.

2. They separated themselves (from those not part of God’s covenant community) and confessed sin. v.2-3

- They confessed their sins and the sins of past generations. v.2 Ref. Ezra 9:7
- They spent considerable time reading from God’s Word, confessing their sin, and in worship. v.3

3. The Levites led the people in confession. v.4-5

- The both joined in the confession (v.4) and led the people in worship (v.5).

→ “Confession is part of the Celebration”

PRAYER: RECOUNTING THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD TO HIS PEOPLE. v.6-31

1. You are the LORD—Creator of heaven and earth. v.6

2. You chose and saved our father Abram through a covenant. v.7-8

3. You rescued our fathers from slavery in Egypt. v.9-12

- The LORD hears the cry of the poor. Ref. Job 34:28; Psalm 22:24
- The Egyptians acted “arrogantly.” v.10 high-handed, presumptuous

4. You gave them the Law (God’s Word) on Mount Sinai. v.13-14

- You gave *right* rules, *true* laws, *good* statutes and commandments, and the *holy* Sabbath. Good things!

5. You took care of them for 40 years in the wilderness. v.15-21

- You gave manna and water. v.15, 20
- v.16: But our fathers sinned...
- v.17: But you... even when... (v.18)

6. You gave them success invading Canaan. v.22-25

7. You faithfully stood by them though they kept sinning against you. v.26-31

- v.26: Nevertheless... they sinned...
- v.27: You saved them when they cried out
- v.28: But they did evil again... Yet You delivered them again... v.29 (same word as v.10!)

8. Now, therefore, our God... v.32-37

→ v.33: You have been righteous... and we have acted wickedly.

Romans 5:6-11