

Nehemiah: When God Gives You A Vision



CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CORNER
7-DAY DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL

Welcome

IT'S TIME TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER INTO NEHEMIAH'S STORY.

This 7-day devotional journal was created to complement our [Nehemiah: When God Gives You A Vision](#) blog post. Journaling is a great way to help you digest what you're learning through the written word. We hope you find this useful when God gives you a vision. Enjoy your journaling time!

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Alicia Bowyer

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Remember The Lord

After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." – Nehemiah 4:14

The construction of the wall has started and so have Nehemiah's headaches. Sanballat and his friends are taunting the brave cupbearer, making false accusations against him. The people of Judah are complaining that there's too much work to do. Some of the Jews are causing a panic by warning Nehemiah that they'll soon be under attack.

If there were ever a moment to throw up his hands in despair, this was it. Nehemiah must have had days where he felt more like a circus ringmaster than a determined leader of God's people.

But still, listen to his words of encouragement to the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord who is great and awesome.

"When you're going through difficult times, it's easy to get caught up in panic over what your enemy is planning. It's natural to feel overwhelmed at the size of your task. It's normal to worry that you won't be able to overcome.

But before you give into all of those emotions swirling around, pause and remember. Remember Who your God is and the amazing things He has done!

God, I confess that I'm tempted to panic right now. Help me to slow down and remember who You are. You are entirely faithful, and I can rest in that knowledge today! In Jesus name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. What moments cause you to panic?

2. Do you ever feel like your life or ministry is a circus? If not a circus, what would you compare it to?

3. How do you respond when your life is spinning out of control?

God's Plans Prevail

“When our enemies heard that we were aware of their plot and that God had frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each to our own work.” – Nehemiah 4:15

The enemies of Israel gathered together with a plan to stop Nehemiah and the people from rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem. But the Israelites caught wind of their plan and Nehemiah quickly mobilized everyone. This brave leader set up guards around his people armed with swords, spears, and bows.

The next verse mentions how God had frustrated the plans of their enemies. Sometimes in our lives, people around us make their plans for us. Maybe a co-worker has determined to get you fired. Perhaps a teacher or professor has it out for you. Maybe a jealous friend is scheming against you.

Whatever the case might be, you don't have to be afraid. Since you are a child of God, He is constantly working on your behalf. He can easily frustrate the plans of your enemies and give you the strength you need to carry on.

This doesn't mean that you shouldn't take countermeasures. After all, Nehemiah knew that God could protect the city.

But he still took the time to station guards on the low areas of the wall. Likewise, you might need to take steps to protect yourself. Perhaps you'll distance yourself from your co-worker or jealous friend. Maybe you'll switch classes, so you have a different teacher or professor.

Do what you need to protect yourself but also trust that God can thwart the plans of those who mean to do you harm.

God, please help me. My enemy is plotting against me, hatching evil without cause. Rise up and defend me in this very moment. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. Who is set against you?

2. How can you take steps to protect yourself?

3. What would you say to Nehemiah if you could talk to him while he was rebuilding the wall?

Servant Leadership

“But the earlier governors—those preceding me—placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels a of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that.” – Nehemiah 5:15

After rebuilding the wall, Nehemiah was chosen by the king to be the governor over Judah. For twelve years, he was governor and yet he never demanded a tax from the people.

The governors before Nehemiah had done so. In fact, they had laid heavy burdens on the whole of the land. They demanded far more than they needed and lived in the lap of luxury while their fellow countrymen suffered.

Nehemiah behaved differently. He explains his behavior in six simple words: *But out of reverence for God.*

Reverence means to think highly of someone, to hold in high regard, and to respect them. Nehemiah is in essence saying he had too much respect and admiration for the holiness of God to oppress the people.

You may not be a governor or a world leader. But there are those you're leading. Maybe you simply have two busy toddlers that you're shepherding. Perhaps you host a teen Bible study each week at your house. No matter who you're leading, do so with gentleness and grace. Let your leading flow from a place of reverence for God.

God, open my eyes to the way I'm a leader in my own home and community. Show me how to lead others with gentleness and grace. Let me never oppress those you want me to guide. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. How have you seen leaders oppress those underneath them?

2. Who are you leading in your home, your work, your ministry, or your community?

3. How can you practice leading with gentleness and grace?

With The Help Of God

“So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.” – Nehemiah 6:15-16

When the task was first begun, it must have seemed impossible. Rebuilding the wall around the city that had been there for hundreds of years. There was rubble everywhere. There were constant threats to the workers' lives. There were rumors and gossip swirling.

Yet for all of this, Nehemiah didn't give up. He kept at the task and this “impossible” thing was completed in just a few weeks. This was the moment when Nehemiah could have gotten puffed up.

In the middle of the victory, he could have announced that he accomplished his mission. He could have strutted around like a peacock, proudly showing off his feathers. But Nehemiah didn't do any of that.

Instead, he immediately gave glory back to God by proclaiming, “this work had been done with the help of our God.”

You might be facing your own impossible task. Maybe that's raising a rebellious teenager or walking with your mom through dementia. Perhaps that's refusing to go along with dishonest behavior of your co-workers.

Whatever your impossible task, know this: it's possible with God's help. He can give you the strength and support you need to accomplish this thing. You can do hard things because the King of Armies has your back.

God, help me to remember when I'm overwhelmed that I'm not in this alone. You are right beside me and You're fighting for me. Thank You for never leaving me alone in the battle. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. When are you tempted to get puffed up?

2. What difficult thing are you walking through right now?

3. How often do you pause to meditate on the fact that God is helping you right now?

The Joy Of The Lord

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." – Nehemiah 8:10

Finding joy in the Lord is an easy task when life is going well. When the bills are paid, and the pantry is full. When the kids are well, and your spouse is sober. When the job is easy, and the days are light.

But what about when they aren't? What about the days when there are more bills than money and the pantry is looking bare? What about the moments when the kids are sick or your spouse has relapsed? When the job is anything but easy and the days are heavy and painful?

Finding joy in the Lord in these moments can feel like another task on already long to-do list. Well-meaning Christians quote verses at you like, "Rejoice always in the Lord". But is that even possible in the middle of the pain and heartbreak?

Yes, it's possible. It's possible to find joy in the middle of the chaos and pain and uncertainty of your life. It's possible to experience peace and comfort right now. It's not an easy path but it's a familiar one.

It starts with worship. You don't have to worship God because of your circumstances. In fact, they might be pretty dismal. But you can always, always worship God for who He is...

- God is your Shield (Psalm 28:7)
- God is your Strength (Psalm 28:7)
- God is your Light (Psalm 27:1)
- God is your Salvation (Psalm 27:1)
- God is your Rock (Psalm 18:2)
- God is your Shepherd (Psalm 23:7)
- God is your Joy (Nehemiah 8:10)

Ross Parsely once said, "Worship is the affirmation that God is big enough and strong enough to walk with us through a crisis and make something beautiful out of it."

God, remind me to recognize the contributions of others in the battles in my own life. Let me remain humble and not give in to the temptation to claim the praise or glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. Are you going through a series of hard days right now?

2. What do you need God to be for you right now?

3. How often do you pause to worship God in the middle of your day?

The God Of Forgiveness

“But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them...” – Nehemiah 9:17

You went too far this time. You knew it as soon as you had that last drink. As soon as you visited that dark website. As soon as you agreed to do that one thing.

Now you're left feeling empty, broken, and defeated. You knew you shouldn't have done it. You promised yourself last time that you would do better.

Maybe you even made those same promises to other people. You told your spouse it was the last time you'd download pornography. You told your father you would call him when you were tempted to pick up that bottle. You promised your child that you would be there on time until your boss asked for a favor.

In these moments, the voice of your enemy often gets loud. He says things like, “You'll never be free. You should just stop trying. God is tired of you anyway. He's not listening to your prayers anymore and who could blame Him? You've gone too far this time.”

But in those moments, remember. Remember that you serve the God who forgives. He is gracious and compassionate. He is slow to anger, and His love is deep. It's abiding. It washes us clean. He won't desert you because of your sins. Rather, He waits to welcome you back into His embrace.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” – 1 John 1:9

God, I confess that I sinned again. I promised I'd be better and make different choices. But I'm powerless unless You help me. Give me victory over this temptation. Give me the courage to change. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. What sinful choice do you struggle with again and again?

2. When you make that sinful choice, what lies does the enemy whisper into your ear?

3. Write out 1 John 1:9 in the space below. Commit to memorizing it this week.

The Curse Into A Blessing

“...they had not met the Israelites with food and water but had hired Balaam to call a curse down on them. (Our God, however, turned the curse into a blessing.)” – Nehemiah 13:2

When reading through the Book of Moses, Nehemiah makes a discovery about the Ammonites and Moabites. They are not allowed to join in the congregation of the Israelites because they failed to provide them with food and water (Deuteronomy 23:3-6). Instead, this sinful nation called down a curse upon the Israelites.

However, there's an interesting note in the verse. The story doesn't end with a curse. It ends with God having the final say, “Our God, however, turned the curse into a blessing.”

Maybe you can relate. Someone in your life has seemed to “curse” you. Perhaps it was your alcoholic mother who regularly berated you. Maybe it was your spouse who verbally abuses you. Perhaps it's the boss who takes credit for your work.

But here's the beautiful news for you, dear one: God can turn their curses into a blessing for you. What other people mean to destroy, God can use for your good and His ultimate glory.

Why does He do this?

The answer can be found in Deuteronomy 23:5, “However, the Lord your God would not listen to Balaam but turned the curse into a blessing for you, **because the Lord your God loves you.**”

God is so powerful that He can turn any curse into a blessing and what's more, God is so loving that this is exactly what He plans to do for you!

God, thank You for Your lovingkindness! Thank You that You're working all things on my behalf. Even those who long to curse me cannot stop You from blessing me. Thank You for the blessings You've given me, the ones You're showering on me right now, and the ones still to come! I love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. Who has tried to curse you?

2. How has God blessed you? Have you seen Him turn curses into blessings in your own life or that of someone you know?

3. Write out a prayer of thanks to God for all the blessings He's given you and the ones still to come!

Congratulations!

You completed the 7-day Nehemiah: When God Gives You A Vision devotional journal!

Our hope is that you will feel Gods presence and grace when He gives you a vision in your life. Bless you in your journey.



Join Our Facebook Group For Friendly Accountability And Community



The Christian Women's Corner private Facebook group was created with you in mind. CWC's goal is to provide and facilitate encouragement, accountability, and community for Christian women.

The CWC private Facebook group includes both Christian Women's Corner and Good Morning Girls resources.

What is Good Morning Girls?

Good Morning Girls meets online daily to keep each other accountable in God's word and in prayer as we read through the Bible cover to cover just one chapter a day.

We're excited and hope you will join our private Facebook group to start reading the word of God daily and have the accountability to keep up this habit and read through the entire Bible with us.

To find out more about the Christian Women's Corner Facebook group, please click the green button below.

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About The Author



Alicia Bowyer created Christian Women's Corner after talking to a good friend one day. They discussed how hard it was to keep up with daily prayer, Bible reading, and telling others about Jesus who didn't share their faith. She knew that some might not struggle with these three things, but many do.

She wanted to take the knowledge that she gained from over 40 years on her Christian walk and help others.

Alicia lives in Barrie, Ontario, Canada, with her family, whom she loves dearly.

To find out more, visit: www.ChristianWomensCorner.com