



# VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

## Weekly Bible Study - 03:10:2010

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### **Study 3: EFFECTIVE FERVENT PRAYER**

#### **Nehemiah 1:1-11**

Nehemiah was a man of prayer. Nine of his prayers are recorded in this book, but most of the others are short and spontaneous – signifying a pious man who lived in the consciousness of divine presence. He not only successfully turned all his problems into prayer points but also obtained the desired results (Philippians 4:6). The prayer experience of many today is not that of constant victory (Mark 9:28; Luke 10:17-20; 11:1). Saul and David were men of similar position. Faced with similar problems, they came to God with a similar petition. God rejected one and answered the other (1 Samuel 28:4-6; 2 Samuel 5:18,19). Many today, when frustrated by unanswered prayers either turn to idolatry, like Saul (1 Samuel 28:6,7), or to philosophy, like the Greeks (1 Corinthians 1:22); rather than follow the noble example of the disciples who turned to Christ to discover the source of their failure and find grace to help in time of need (Mark 9:28; Luke 11:1; Hebrews 4:16). We need to come with a clean slate irrespective of our previous experiences in prayer and dig deeper as we discover from Nehemiah's prayer the salient truths on the Height of Effective Prayer, Hindrances and Helps to Effective Praying. Once these principles are applied we will get the blessings of the Lord that maketh rich and added no sorrow thereto (Proverbs 10:22).

#### **1. HEIGHT OF EFFECTIVE PRAYER**

*Nehemiah 1:11; 2:4-8; 4:4,5; 5:19; 6:14-16.*

The above references give a brief survey of the nine recorded prayers of Nehemiah. Effective fervent prayers transcend problems and circumstances and ascend to the throne of grace, bringing down divine power into human situations. The height of success Nehemiah achieved, the vision, courage and skills required to achieve them were all obtained through effective fervent prayers. Men like Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Daniel, David, Jesus and Paul rose to great heights of achievement through the power of effective prayers. There is no mountain too high to scale, no road too long to cover, no task too difficult to accomplish by a man who knows how to tap the resources of heaven through prayer. Jesus did say, and He meant it, that ***“What things soever ye desire, when ye pray believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them”*** (Mark 11:24). God has not changed with time; neither has His promises diminished in power. ***“What things soever ye desire”*** is still His promise and will for this generation!

#### **2. HINDRANCES TO EFFECTIVE PRAYING:**

*Nehemiah 1:6-8; Psalms 66:18; Mark 11:25,26; Acts 4:12; James 4:2,3; 1:5-8; Matthew 5:23-24; 17:19,20; Isaiah 59:1,2; 50:10,11; Ezekiel 14:4-6; Songs of Solomon 2:15; Galatians 5:17*

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***“Is there not a cause?”*** (1 Samuel 17:29) This succinct question of David as he prepared to confront Goliath is pertinent here as we explore the hindrances to answered prayers. Some of the greatest hindrances to effective praying include sin, unbelief, carnality, disobedience, idolatry, self-indulgence, unsundered will, unforgiving spirit, misplaced priorities, praying through intermediaries other than Jesus, eye service, praying to a dead god or the unknown god (1 Kings 18:21-28; Acts 17:22-23). These hindrances may be likened to the stone on Lazarus’ grave (John 11: 49). When ‘these stones’ are removed, prayer life will resurrect and the answers will come like floods after the rains.

### **3. HELPS TO EFFECTIVE PRAYING**

Nehemiah 1:4-11; Matthew 17:19-21; 15:26; Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 58:1-14; Zechariah 7:1-13; 2 Chronicles 7:14; John 15:7, 16; I John 3:22; Matthew 6:9,16; Hebrews 11:6; John 14:13,14; Isaiah 43:26; Luke 18:1-7

Prayer is still ***“The Royal Telephone”*** to heaven but not for “the mixed multitude” (Exodus 12:38; Numbers 11:4). Nehemiah used prayer to ‘activate’ divine assistance to the solution of his problems and that of the nation. He fasted and prayed persistently till the answers came. He acknowledged and confessed the sins of Israel and reminded God of His promises concerning them. He expected answers to His prayers and believed that God can grant His requests. Effective praying begins with a father-son relationship. God reserves the best meat only for His children. Faith and fasting, as well as perseverance and persistence on the promises, all help towards effective praying. ***YOU CANNOT GO WRONG WHILE STANDING ON THE PROMISES OF THE LORD.***