

CHRISTIAN, DOES YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THAT  
GOD IS BUILDING? NEHEMIAH 6:16



A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

*Sunday Morning* Bible Study

[www.BibleBaptistKissimmee.com](http://www.BibleBaptistKissimmee.com)

CHRISTIAN, DOES YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THAT  
GOD IS BUILDING? NEHEMIAH 6:16

## STUDY 2 - FAVOR

*Nehemiah 1:4-11*

### Study BACKGROUND

**Last Time** – We began our study of the Book of Nehemiah and reviewed Israel's history and how by the time Nehemiah comes on the scene around 444 B.C., God had permitted multiple invasions of Israel and her citizens to be deported into other countries and scattered among several other nations. Over the course of the next 94 years, a handful of Jews were permitted to return Jerusalem only to find the temple of the LORD destroyed and the city and its wall in ruins.

**Nehemiah**, serving in a Persian palace, received a report about the condition of his countrymen in Jerusalem. The way Nehemiah responded to the news revealed the quality of his relationship with God and the impact that his relationship with God had made on the way he saw others. Closeness with God results in an inner compassion for others who are suffering.

**Today**, we will gain some more insight into Nehemiah's relationship with God; we will examine the qualifications for asking God for favor; and we'll close our study with a look at God's sovereignty over His plans and purposes.

***Read Entire Passage***      Nehemiah 1:4-11

CHRISTIAN, DOES YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THAT  
GOD IS BUILDING? NEHEMIAH 6:16

## Topic #1: NEHEMIAH & GOD

**Nehemiah 1:4-7** And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven, 5 And said, I beseech [*beg*] thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible [*awesome*] God, that keepeth covenant [*agreement*] and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments: 6 Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned. 7 We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.

### *Group Questions*

- From verse 5, what can we learn about Nehemiah's view of God based on the way he addresses the Lord? Nehemiah begins with a plea as one who is begging from someone who is superior. Nehemiah respects God acknowledging God's power and humbles himself before God.
- From verse 6, who is Nehemiah praying for? His fellow believers, the children of Israel; it is not a self centered prayer request.
- Also from verse 6, what is causing Nehemiah to pray day and night for his fellow believers? His compassion for them.

CHRISTIAN, DOES YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THAT  
GOD IS BUILDING? NEHEMIAH 6:16

- In the last part of verse 6, what does Nehemiah's admission show? That he takes equal responsibility with his fellow believers for their sin; he doesn't try to put the blame on others but owns up to his part.

**Nehemiah 1:8-10** Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations: 9 But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there. 10 Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand.

### *Group Questions*

- In verses 8-10, Nehemiah talks to God about the agreement God had with Israel, how is this agreement supposed to work? If Israel trusts and obeys God, God will bless and protect Israel from harm. If Israel does not trust God and disobeys Him, God will remove His protection and blessing and permit Israel to be taken away captive by other nations.
- Which part of the agreement is Israel living out during Nehemiah's time? Israel is living out the discipline part of the agreement. The part of the agreement where distrust and disobedience results in Israel being removed from their land and scattered abroad.
- From verse 9, what can change these troubling times for Israel? Coming back to God. Admitting their wrong doing and seeking to turn away from sin and seeking to obey God's instructions will cause God to once again restore His hand of blessing and protection in their lives.

CHRISTIAN, DOES YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THAT  
GOD IS BUILDING? NEHEMIAH 6:16

## Topic #2: SEEKING GOD'S FAVOR

**Nehemiah 1:11** O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy [*compassion*] in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

### *Group Questions*

- In verse 11, Nehemiah asked God to hear his prayer *and* the prayer of others who were serving God, what does this show about Nehemiah's character? That he is not so conceited to think he is the only one who understands Israel's situation and is the only one spiritual enough to do anything about it.
- What did Nehemiah specifically ask God for? That the King of Persia would have compassion for Nehemiah.
- Would God be right in granting Nehemiah's request? Yes.
- What qualified Nehemiah to be able to ask for God's help? Nehemiah rightfully humbled himself before God and confessed his sin in order to restore his fellowship with God; he had done his part of the agreement (*covenant*) and was therefore able to ask that God honor His part of the agreement.


CHRISTIAN, DOES YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THAT  
GOD IS BUILDING? NEHEMIAH 6:16

### Topic #3: GOD'S PLAN & PURPOSE

**Nehemiah 1:11** O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer [*drink taster*].

#### *Group Questions*

- What was Nehemiah's job as the cup bearer or drink taster? Before the king drank his drink, Nehemiah would have to take a drink first to make sure the drink wasn't poisoned.
- Besides getting to spend a lot of time in Persian palaces, what other key advantage did this job offer? This position would cause Nehemiah to have frequent, close contact to the king of one of the most powerful nations on the earth at that time.
- Do you think Nehemiah held this job by chance? No.
- Why do you think Nehemiah was in this position? God had a plan for Israel and a purpose for Nehemiah's life which would require close contact with the King of Persia.
- What qualified Nehemiah to be used of God? Nehemiah had sought closeness with God and as a result had compassion for others. The Bible is full of examples of God touching lives through believers who are willing to trust and obey God and be used of Him in others lives.

CHRISTIAN, DOES YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THAT  
GOD IS BUILDING? NEHEMIAH 6:16

## Life CHANGE

### PRINCIPLE 1

Nehemiah's relationship with God was built on honesty and humility. Nehemiah accepted his part of the blame for the overall spiritual condition of Israel. Nehemiah also understood he was to be submissive to God and to obey God's teachings. By staying close to God, Nehemiah was moved to ask God for blessing and protection on fellow believers.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

As a believer, if the way I **treat** others shows how **close** I am walking with God, how would people who know me rate my closeness to God? *Circle the appropriate answer.* **1.** I'm very close to God. **2.** I'm kind of close to God. **3.** I'm not very close to God. **4.** I need to restore my closeness with God.

### PRINCIPLE 2

Nehemiah asked God to hear his prayer *and* the prayers of other believers who were seeking closeness with God. He selflessly prayed on behalf of the believers who were suffering in Jerusalem. His humility before God and his compassion for others were the right ingredients for God to answer his request.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

How has God been **responding** to my prayer **requests**? If my prayers have not been being answered, is it because I have been acting selfishly or pridefully? How can I change this?

CHRISTIAN, DOES YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE SOMETHING THAT  
GOD IS BUILDING? NEHEMIAH 6:16

## PRINCIPLE 3

Nehemiah's job placed him in a position of influence. Being close to the king on a frequent basis, offered plenty of opportunities for Nehemiah to speak with the king. It is unlikely that Nehemiah got this job by his own doing or by chance; God placed him there. God is in control of the plan He has for His creation and uses both believers and non-believers to accomplish his plan and purpose.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

How is God using my life **experience**, my current **place** in life, and the **relationships** I have right now to carry out His plan to grow His Kingdom? *Be specific.*

NEHEMIAH'S HUMILITY & COMPASSION  
CAUSED GOD TO USE HIS  
POSITION AND RELATIONSHIPS IN  
THIS LIFE TO FULFILL GOD'S  
GREATER PLAN.