

Consecration Leads To Restoration

Nehemiah 1:1-11 - September 9, 2018

How can the church be revitalized and restored?

Churches are in desperate need of revitalization and restoration - which is always an issue of the heart.

Nehemiah 1:1-11

Vs.2b

1) There Must Be Many Compassionate People Who Are More Concerned About God's Economy, Than Their Own

The mature Christian must come to a place in his/her life where they recognize, that it isn't about them anymore.

This is at the heart of consecration.

2) There Needs To Be An Acknowledgment Of Failure (**Neh. 1:3**)

If we keep our blinders on, thinking that everything is alright, then we're in denial and things can't and won't change.

At times, an "intervention" needs to happen in the church.

We must individually and corporately acknowledge the reality of our situation and our failure to be the church that God wants us to be - or there can't and won't be any restoration.

3) There Must Be Genuine Brokenness (**Neh. 1:4**)

Nehemiah was naturally overcome with weeping and mourning that lasted for days.

This is why (in part) we've entered into a season of prayer & fasting, & Solemn Assembly's. **2 Chronicles 7:13-15**

4) We Need To Rely Upon God's Power, Faithfulness & Mercy (**Neh. 1:5**)

"His power is made perfect in our weakness" - "If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself" - "How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!"

5) Through The Extensive Confession Of Sin (**Neh. 1:6+7**)

The word 'corruptly' means, "*2 bring ruin and destruction*" - as their sin had led to total devastation.

He takes personal blame, both for himself and even his own family, as he recognizes that this is key if restoration is going to take place.

Nehemiah 1:8+9

6) It Is Dependent Upon The Faithfulness Of God's People

Our faithfulness is ultimately a result of His faithfulness.

I Cor.1:26-31

We may not have a lot to offer, but *all* of us can offer ourselves.

God is more interested in a person who will serve Him *faithfully*, with all of his/her heart (serving out of gratitude), than He is, looking for someone with pedigree or talent.

Nehemiah 1:10+11

7) By Those Who Delight To Revere His Name

To 'revere' means, "to show fear"... To show great respect for God (& His Name) - which represents Who He is.

We want many to come alongside us and worship Him as *He* is our reward; and that's *why* we want to see the Church revitalized, restored and increasing - it's *why* we want to fill this place up!