

The Prayer God Loves to Answer (Part 2)

Nehemiah 1:5-11

Pastor Joshua Brooks

Ice Breaker: What is the most ridiculous thing you've ever heard a televangelist invite his viewers to "name and claim" in their prayers?

BIG IDEA: One reason that Nehemiah's prayer life was so effective was because he knew the promises of God's Word and was willing to claim them. Likewise, the effectiveness of our prayer life will be largely determined by how well we know and claim the promises of God's Word.

Digging Deeper:

- 1) Read Leviticus 26:14-25; 26: 36-45 (especially v40); and Deuteronomy 30:1-5. What are the specific warnings and promises that God gave His people in these verses?
- 2) Read Nehemiah 1:5-9. In light of Lev 26 & Deut 30, what is Nehemiah doing here in his prayer? What does Nehemiah's prayer (in chapter 1) say about his knowledge of the promises of God's Word – even though he was living in Persia?
- 3) On a scale of 1-10, where are you in your knowledge of the promises of God's Word? If knowing and claiming the promises of God's Word is so central to an effective prayer life, what is one thing you could do to increase your knowledge of God's promises?
- 4) Read Nehemiah 1:10-11. How does Nehemiah's prayer for success put his own neck on the line? How does Nehemiah's prayer for success compare to 'prayers for success' that you've prayed?
- 5) Pastor Joshua said, "If we can't ask God to bless the things we're doing – then we should stop doing them, and find something else to do where we *can* ask God to bless our efforts." What's one place in your life where you want to start asking God to give you success – SO THAT His Kingdom might be advanced (through you)?