

Prayers that Work

A Study on the Book of Nehemiah



Nehemiah 1:1-11

PRAYERS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ARE FUELED BY:

1. A Preoccupation with change
2. A Passion that doesn't get extinguished

POWERFUL PRAYERS FLOW OUT OF:

1. Dependence: Looking up
2. Confession: Looking in
3. Confidence: Looking back
4. Commitment: Looking ahead

3 THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO FORGET

1. Prayer is a first response, not a last response.
2. Prayer is the bridge from here to action.
3. Prayer aligns my plans with God's priorities.

REALife Application

QUICK REVIEW - Looking back over your sermon notes, which particular point or passage of Scripture most challenged, confused or caught your attention?

1. One of the things that Jesse talked about this weekend was that prayers that make a difference in the world around us are fueled by a preoccupation with change and a passion that doesn't extinguish. Looking at Matt 15:21-28 and 1 Samuel 1:1-28, how do these exemplify this approach?

2. Preoccupation and passion doesn't always mean that God answers our prayers, for example Matt. 26:36-44. What kind of benefits can an "unanswered" prayer have in our lives? Can you describe a time in your life when this happened? How about the disciples, who do you relate to the most, Jesus or the disciples in this situation?

3. Compare your prayers to the one prayed by Nehemiah. What are the similarities and differences?

4. Prayer is the bridge from here to action. Describe a time in your life when you were the answer to your own prayer and it was you that was the solution needed to address an area of concern. Is there an area that God has given you a burden for right now that you are sensing Him calling you to fill, what is it and how can your group pray for you?

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