

10 lessons from Nehemiah's Spiritual life

1. He took his burden to God in prayer (he did not get trapped in a downward spiral of despair. While he was sad, he chose to respond to the situation through the lens of his faith) Neh 1:4*
2. As he spent time before God, God's plan and his role developed in his mind (He received the sense of a meaningful and purposeful call from God of Heaven that he was one to do something about the situation in Jerusalem, that it was worthwhile doing, that he would complete it and God would work it out). Neh 1:11
3. When the opportunity was given to Nehemiah to share his plan,/tell his story to the king, he humbly and boldly asked for what he needed to carry out his plan. (miraculously, the king granted his request. From this moment on, Nehemiah was in no doubt God's favour was with him. God would supply what/who was needed to complete his God-given task.) Neh 2:3-5
4. He did a realistic survey of the situation (walls and people of Jerusalem). He shared the work that needed to be done and his testimony of God's graciousness and King Artaxerxes' words. His faith encouraged and motivated the people's hope to begin this good work. Neh 2:17-18
5. He was not surprised by difficulty or resistance. Anything worthwhile is often achieved through sacrifice, suffering and struggling. Difficulty and resistance actually serve to strengthen resolve & dependence on God. He remained hopeful in the God of Heaven keeping in touch with a source of strength & power outside himself. Neh 2:20 4:14
6. He planned, organised, celebrated progress. Nehemiah organised the people so that different families were responsible for rebuilding different sections of the wall. Hopeful people soon had the wall to half its height.
7. Nehemiah and the people knew that what they were doing mattered and their contribution was important. It kept them going when things got tough. (Nehemiah identified himself as God's servant. He sought to live his life in obedience to God. He stood his ground & did not run away. Nehemiah did not misuse his power nor abused his position for personal gain.)
8. While opposition came in its many forms (intimidation, harm, slander, discredit, compromise), Nehemiah and the people found the strength/courage to persevere with their task to complete the walls of Jerusalem. (Courage is not the absence of fear, but the strength to do the right thing even though you are afraid. Behind human opponents is Satan whose name is 'adversary' and is an enemy of God, god's people, God's work and God's praise. Wear the full armour of God that He has provided for us. Ephesians 6:13-18)
9. Leadership was needed from beginning to end (Plan what needs to be done and Organise the work. Motivate the people to fulfil the vision, Inspire people to work hard at the task toward a common goal. Act swiftly and decisively to resolve/problem-solve matters of people's concern or disunity with creative responses. Remain flexible through adapting plans to face new challenges as situations change (people, problems, environment)
10. Success brought glory to God and deflated the opposition as God must have been in it.

*Neh = Nehemiah (a book in the bible).

Reference: Resilience in Life and Faith: Finding your strength in God by Tony Horsfall and Debbie Hawker

We hope you found these lessons helpful. We pray that they will strengthen and encourage you.

For more information and to connect with us at Men's Breakfast

go to <https://www.goldhill.org/recur/mens-breakfast/>