

NEHEMIAH: 

OVERCOMING!

CHALLENGES

NEHEMIAH 1:3

³ They said to me, “Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire.”

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little, when we arrive safely because we have sailed too close to the shore.

—SIR FRANCIS DRAKE,
A PRAYER FOR DISTURBANCE

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes; and to push into the future in strength, courage, hope, and love."

—**SIR FRANCIS DRAKE,**
A PRAYER FOR DISTURBANCE

Lean on the favor of God

NEHEMIAH 1:11

¹¹ “Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.” I was cupbearer to the king.

NEHEMIAH 2:1-5

¹ In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before, ^{2a} so the king asked me, “Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart...”

NEHEMIAH 2:1-5

2^b ...I was very much afraid, ³ but I said to the king,
“May the king live forever! Why should my face not
look sad when the city where my ancestors are
buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been
destroyed by fire?”

NEHEMIAH 2:1-5

⁴ The king said to me, “What is it you want?”
Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵ and I
answered the king, “If it pleases the king and if
your servant has found favor in his sight, let him
send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors
are buried so that I can rebuild it.”

NEHEMIAH 2:8

⁸ And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests.

New Testament Favor:

New Testament Favor:

LUKE 2:52

⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature,
and in **favor** with God and man.

New Testament Favor:

ACTS 2:46-47

⁴⁶ They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

New Testament Favor:

2 CORINTHIANS 1:11

¹¹ Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious **favor** granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

New Testament Favor:

JAMES 4:6

⁶ “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

Remember that
change brings resistance

NEHEMIAH 2:10

¹⁰ When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites.

New Testament Courage:

New Testament Courage:

ACTS 4:13

¹³ When they saw the **courage** of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

New Testament Courage:

ACTS 23:11

¹¹ The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”

New Testament Courage:

ACTS 27:22

²² But now I urge you to keep up your **courage**, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed.

New Testament Courage:

ACTS 27:25

²⁵ So keep up your **courage**, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.

Face reality,
but see beyond it

NEHEMIAH 2:11-16

¹¹ I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days ¹² I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

NEHEMIAH 2:11-16

¹³ By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire.

NEHEMIAH 2:11-16

¹⁴ Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; ¹⁵ so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate.

NEHEMIAH 2:11-16

¹⁶ The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

New Testament Faith:

New Testament Faith:

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

⁷ For we live by **faith**, not by sight.

New Testament Faith:

1 JOHN 5:4

⁴ This is the victory that has overcome the world,
even our **faith**.

New Testament Faith:

HEBREWS 11:1

¹ Now **faith** is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

New Testament Faith:

HEBREWS 11:6

⁶ And without **faith** it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.



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