

Posture of Dependence

March 11, 2018

OPEN

Can you think of a time that you built something by yourself? What made it satisfying? What was discouraging about the process?

Now...think of a time when you accessed the expertise or assistance of someone else to build something. How was your experience better?

In John 15:5 Jesus said, *"without Me you can do nothing"*. Why do we as humans struggle to accept this truth?

Our Cornerstone Neighbourhood Church our vision for ministry is captured by the acrostic **w. h. o. l. e.** The fourth key word is **"learn"**...

We exist to learn and develop Christ-like character by being equipped through the teaching of God's Word so that we will reach our full potential in life.

DIG

Nehemiah provides a fascinating portrait of a man who learned. [see more [HERE](#) about Nehemiah] He encountered God in a profound way and his character was changed. One of the key ways Nehemiah learned to follow God was by developing a **posture of dependence**.

1. Realization of need - 1:5-11

How did Nehemiah take personal responsibility for the sin of his nation? In what way did he confess his need and dependence upon God?

Reflect on Zechariah 4:6 where God tells us very clearly: *"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty.*

2. Request for help - 2:4; 4:4-5; 5:19; 6:9

As we work for God, we will encounter opposition. What kind of opposition to God's work in and through your life do you experience?

Examine these four requests which Nehemiah offered to God. How can this pattern of trust and dependence inform the way we seek God's help?

3. Recognition of victory - 6:15-16

When was the last time you had an experience like this...a victory in your life

so significant that only God could have accomplished it? How can we become more attentive to God's victories in and around us?

4. Response of obedience - 7:5

Ponder the phrase, "God put it in my heart". Why do you think Nehemiah as able to discern God's voice in his life?

What is God "putting in your heart"? Are you having a hard time hearing His voice? Or...do you hear Him but struggle to obey?

Read the prayer of Paul in II Thessalonians 1:11-12

5. Remembrance of dependence - 9:5-37; 13:14,22,31

How do you remember the goodness of God in your life? Consider keeping a journal or some record of God's goodness and grace in your life.

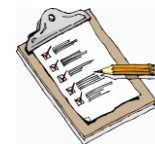
Are you progressing from **the known** (God's Person – who He is) to **the unknown** (God's purposes for your life)?

REFLECT

After interacting with the story of Nehemiah, what do you think of the phrase: "dependence must precede competence".

In his book on Nehemiah titled **Victorious Christian Service**, Allen Redpath suggests there is a wall to be built in...

- **Your soul** a wall of growth and maturity in Christ
- **Our church** a wall of spiritually impacting your community
- **The world** a wall of Gospel witness to all peoples



- ✓ *Are you finessing God's work for Him with only human strength?*
- ✓ *Are you choosing a place of service other than what God designed? you?*
- ✓ *Are you appreciating and accessing God given resources in the Church?*
- ✓ *Are you forgetting the cosmic spiritual battle raging around you?*
- ✓ *Are you experiencing joy? (Nehemiah 8:10)*

For further reading: [Three Reasons To Call On The Lord by Barry Creamer](#)