



Christian Faith Fellowship

We are not a perfect church

We are not a perfect people

**We are here because we know we need
God's help and He has provided this help
through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

**“CFF Exists to Know Christ and to Make Him
Known!”**

Living the Faith

- **Are you spending at least 5 minutes per day reading the Bible? (listening on CD/Online?)**
Reading Schedule at the Welcome table.
- **Have you shared your Conversion story/or a God Story?**
- **Are you hearing what the Spirit is saying?**
- **Did you spend some alone time with God this week? (No agenda, no bible, no music, no journal, etc.)**

- **God's people had been taken captive and Jerusalem had been ravaged because they had turned their backs on God (586-587 B.C.).**
- **Not all the people had turned their backs on God but the Nation as a whole had done so!**
- **Nehemiah was serving as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes (King of Persia-now modern Iran).**
- **In Chapter 1 we are told 1 of his brothers comes and tells him about the condition of Jerusalem.**

Nehemiah 1:2-3

2 Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem. 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.”

- **Hearing about the devastation to his people and his home city what was his first reaction?**
- **Nehemiah 1:4 “*When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.*”**
- **He records his intercessory prayer (v5-v11) in which Nehemiah confesses the sin of the people (including himself) and calling on God’s promises to restore His people IF they confess/repent and return to His ways!**

- **There are many lessons we can learn from this amazing man of God and 1 of the first we are going to be challenged with is the condition of our own city Tucson, AZ.**
- **“Tucson is one of the neediest cities in the U.S., according to a recent survey. While several Arizona communities — Gilbert, Scottsdale and Chandler — were among the 15 least needy in WalletHub’s survey of the 150 largest cities in the country, Tucson came in at No. 131. (Tucson.com, Arizona Daily Star, Dec. 9, 2014)”**

- **Remember this about Nehemiah (Chapter 1:11b)**
“I was cupbearer to the king.”
- **He was a nobody... not a Priest, not a Prophet, not a builder, he was a servant in the Kings palace!**
- **What he did have was a heart for God and his people!**
- **He prayed for God to use him in his current place to make a difference!**

Restoring the City

Step 1: Intercessory Prayer & Fasting (v4)

A. Confession: *“6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father’s family, have committed against you. 7 We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.”*

Restoring the City

B. Calling on God's Promises: (v8) *“Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying...”*

- **Nehemiah KNEW God's word and KNEW the promises that God had made to His people!**
- **He called upon God to honor His promises!**

C. Offered himself & asked for favor: (v11b) *“... Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man.”*

Restoring the City

- **Nothing had been done to the city...he had not even set 1 foot in the city... there was no plan of action formulated! He simply brought the needs before God!**
- **As we reflect on our city - what is it we have asked God for? Have we fasted & prayed for the city? Have we offered ourselves for God's use? Have we asked for God's favor?**
- **It's easy to find fault and condemn what is or isn't happening but what action have we taken to make a change?**

Action Steps

- Will you pray & fast for Tucson this week?
- Will you confess and own the sin of the city?
- Will you call on God's promises seeking restoration?
- Will you offer yourself for his use and seek his favor?

2 Chronicles 7:14 *“if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land”*