

Nehemiah Project

21 Daily Devotions

DEVOTION #9 - Monday, October 17

Then the king asked me, "What is your request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven and answered the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, send me to Judah and to the city where my ancestors are buried, so that I may rebuild it." Nehemiah 2:4-5 HCSB

Nehemiah prayed and waited. Then it happened. At just the right moment, Nehemiah was able to speak with the king. The king opened doors and provided the resources Nehemiah desperately needed.

God had perfectly positioned Nehemiah to make a difference. It was God who gave Nehemiah influence with the king as his cupbearer. It was the perfect set up.

Nehemiah could have said, "I've prayed, now God will do it." And while God can handle His work, He chooses to work through obedient people. Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and He will establish your plans."

Is your heart broken for something? Do you know what to do?

God establishes the plans of doers. Nehemiah did more than complain about a problem. Nehemiah acted. He did more than pray. With courage Nehemiah spoke to the king. Not satisfied with, "Someone else will do it," Nehemiah boldly made his request to the king.

While we all doubt God sometimes, it is usually a lack of action that keeps us stuck, not a lack of faith. Just because our hearts are broken doesn't mean we're willing to do something about a problem. We can be sad about what's happening in us or around us and do absolutely nothing about it. Conversely, we can be extremely excited about an opportunity and really want to see God do something but unless we listen and obey him, we may miss out on being a part of what He wants to do.

Faith without works is dead (James 2:20). We've got to respond to the opportunities God gives us. Is your heart broken for something? Do you know what to do?

God, show me what you want me to do in response to the needs around me. Grant me opportunity, courage, and favor to follow your direction.