

Hallmarks of Revival

Nehemiah 8:1-18

Sermon Series: *Repairing Broken Walls*, pt. 10

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Introduction:

Nehemiah 8 is one of the most exciting chapters in all of Scripture. Recorded here is a revival that encompasses four aspects of revivals found anywhere and anytime. Contained here are specific steps that seem to precede the Spirit's reviving work in His people both personally and corporately. While the Spirit alone brings the fire of revival, we are wise to bring these four pieces of "firewood"!

Setting: (Nehemiah 1-7)

I. Love God with all of your **H**_____ (verses 1-6)

Why do you suppose the people suddenly evidenced a hunger for God's Word? Consider the following three reasons:

1. The teaching ministry of Ezra (Ezra 7:10)
2. The inspiration (and perspiration) of Nehemiah
3. A renewed awareness of the righteousness of God

Note that the people built a platform in preparation of this revival (verse 4). What does this say about what we can do to prepare for revival personally and corporately?

In what way can our clothes reflect what is happening internally? Consider the instructions of the Lord concerning the priests and laymen (priest's clothes: Exodus 39; laymen's clothes: Numbers 15:37-40)

II. Love God with all of your **M**_____ (verses 7-8)

What does it mean to love the Lord your God with all your mind?
How does understanding foster standing?
What words characterize your attitude toward Scripture?

III. Love God with all of your S_____ (verses 9-12)

How do you reconcile the natural reaction to have genuine sorrow for our sins and the invitation "*to rejoice always*" because of our Savior?

IV. Love God with all of your S_____ (verses 13-18)

Many Scriptural truths are communicated through action. (Passover, Feast of Tabernacles, etc.) What personal application can you and your family envision to impress to your children (and to you) biblical truth? Remember, more is caught than taught!

Even though it had been 1000 years since last this Feast was celebrated, the people broke with tradition and responded obediently to the Lord. What area might you break with your "personal tradition" and follow instead the directives of the LORD?

Do beliefs affect behavior or does behavior affect beliefs?

Conclusion/Application: