

# SERVING GOD WITH DETERMINED FAITH - 7

## Recommit to a Gracious God

"But in your great mercy  
you did not put an end  
to them or abandon  
them, for you  
are a gracious and  
merciful God."  
- Nehemiah 9:31

### **Bible Truth:**

*God's faithfulness is the only  
reason God's people have  
any story to tell.*

### **Life Impact:**

*We should avoid being  
careless about worshipping  
God and confessing our sins,  
which inevitably leads to  
becoming careless about  
doing His will.*

Nehemiah 9 largely retells the history of God's people. The record of God's relationship with His people is presented in a sweeping overview, and the rehearsing of this history elicits from God's people deep repentance before Him. At least nine prayers are recorded in the book of Nehemiah (13 chapters). Far from a *token* prayer, these words are spoken by the *broken*—affirming the faithfulness of a gracious and merciful God, and admitting their own faithlessness. As such, the prayer provides a good illustration of confession in practice: speaking the truth about God and speaking the truth about oneself.

## Welcome

In your "growing up years," what did "confession" mean to you? What was involved?

## Word

### **Read Nehemiah 9:1-6**

1. How did the Levites direct the people attention toward God? For what did they praise God? Why is adoration of God's name an important beginning place for our prayers?

**Read Nehemiah 9:7-15, 16-25, 26-31** [This section of their prayer is basically a rehearsal of God's dealings with His people, and naturally divides itself into three broad timeframes: Abraham through the deliverance from Egyptian bondage (vv 7-15), the wilderness through entering the Promised Land (vv 16-25), and the Judges through captivity (vv 26-31). Ask a different person to read each section.]

2. What do you learn about God from these summaries of history? How did the people respond to God's loving action? Why? In contrast, how did God act toward them?

3. What is the most surprising aspect of God's love that's recounted here?

4. Recall a time when you deeply mourned over your own sin or the sin of others. It is one thing to acknowledge sin, but another to be "broken" and mourn over it. Why don't we mourn more than we typically do?

### **Read Nehemiah 9:32-38**

5. As this prayer ends, what did the Levites acknowledge about God? About the people? About themselves?

6. What do you learn from this passage that would help you experience continual renewal in your spiritual life?

## Worship

Notice the pattern of this prayer—adoration of God's Name, affirmation of God's goodness, acknowledgement of sin, agreement to renewed obedience. Using this pattern, spend time in corporate prayer. God can only fill those who are not full of themselves. Our blessed assurance is that God responds with mercy to beggars (read Isaiah 57:15; 66:1-2).

## Works

Does your life evidence genuine spiritual renewal? What steps will you take to be more intentional about worshipping God, being open about your sin, and serious about pursuing His will?