



REBUILD

**24 HOUR
PRAYER VIGIL GUIDE**

APRIL 30, 7:00 PM - MAY 1, 7:00 PM

24-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL GUIDE

Christ Covenant,

The Elders of Christ Covenant are working on a plan to rebuild. Before we unveil the full plan and begin to execute the plan and reopen, we are asking our Church Family to participate in a 24-Hour Prayer Vigil.

On April 26th, I started a sermon series titled "Rebuild". For the next few months, we will be going through the book of Nehemiah and discover how God wants us to rebuild. Before Nehemiah took action, he first spent time grieving over the destruction of his city, fasting and praying (*Nehemiah 1:4*). In *Nehemiah 1:5-11*, Nehemiah prayed a heartfelt prayer. We encourage you in your time of prayer during our prayer vigil, to focus on the 5 things that Nehemiah focused on: Adoration, Intercession, Confession, Recollection and Supplication.

Here is a guide to assist you in your time of prayer.

Impacting Lives for Christ,
Seth Hammond

ADORATION

When crisis comes, the first thing we normally do is complain, criticize, or question God. Not Nehemiah. The first thing he does is praise God and thank Him for His awesome power and covenant faithfulness. He begins his prayer with adoration of Who God is.

Nehemiah 1:4-5 ⁴ *When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.* ⁵ *Then I said, "O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps His covenant of unfailing love with those who love Him and obey His commands..."*

As you begin praying, take the time to adore God and praise Him for Who He is. Instead of criticizing or complaining to God about this pandemic, take the time to glorify Him and praise His sovereignty and goodness. Reflect and pray verses such as the following...

Psalms 29:1-10 ¹ *Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.* ² *Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.* ³ *The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.* ⁴ *The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.* ⁵ *The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.* ⁶ *He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.* ⁷ *The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.* ⁸ *The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.* ⁹ *The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in His temple all cry, "Glory!"* ¹⁰ *The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.*

Psalm 95:3-7 ³ For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. ⁴ In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also. ⁵ The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land. ⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! ⁷ For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Hebrews 1:3 ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...

Revelation 4:11 ¹¹ Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created.

INTERCESSION

After praising God for His faithfulness, Nehemiah prays to God on behalf of others. He asks the Lord to hear his prayers that he prays day and night for the people of Israel.

Nehemiah 1:6 ⁶ let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, to hear the prayer of Your servant that I now pray before You day and night for the people of Israel Your servants...

As you continue praying, take the time to pray on behalf of others (our Government Leaders, Medical Professionals, Families who are grieving the loss of loved ones from this disease, those who are at high risk, our Church Leaders, our Church Family, etc.). Reflect and pray verses such as the following...

Jeremiah 29:7 ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 ¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

2 Corinthians 1:11 ¹¹ You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

Ephesians 6:16-20 ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

CONFESSION

Nehemiah knew God's people had sinned against Him by not staying committed to Him. Torn down walls were a result of their sin and the effects of a fallen world. Nehemiah also was one with his people, and he does not distance himself from their sin, but rather, he recognizes himself as a sinner who caused the destruction of the walls of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 1:6-7 ⁶ let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, to hear the prayer of Your servant that I now pray before You day and night for the people of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against You. Even I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that You commanded Your servant Moses.

For revival to take place in our Churches and our nation, we must repent. Without repentance there is no revival. Please take the time to confess your sins before God. Get specific about your sins and how you have wronged the Lord and others. Plead with Him to forgive you and to forgive our nation for drifting away from Him. Reflect on and pray verses such as the following...

Acts 3:19 ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

Daniel 9:3-10 ³ So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with Him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. ⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of love with all who love Him and obey His commands, ⁵ we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from Your commands and laws. ⁶ We have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. ⁷ "Lord, You are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame-- the men of Judah and people of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where You have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to You. ⁸ O LORD, we and our kings, our princes and our fathers are covered with shame because we have sinned against You. ⁹ The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against Him; ¹⁰ we have not obeyed the LORD our God or kept the laws He gave us through His servants the prophets.

James 4:8-10 ⁸ Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Proverbs 28:13 ¹³ He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

RECOLLECTION

Nehemiah understood his history and his theology. He knew that God was faithful, and that God promised to gather His people back together after He had scattered them (*Deut. 30:4*).

He prayed to God, asking Him to remember His promises He made to His people.

Nehemiah 1:8-10 ⁸ Remember the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹ but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though your dispersed be under the farthest skies, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make My name dwell there.' ¹⁰ They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand.

As we continue to go through this crisis, we must remember our theology and know that God is faithful to His people. Ask God to gather us back again soon so we can worship Him together as a Church family. Ask the Lord to remember His promises He has made to His people. Reflect on and pray verses that remind us of God's promises...

Deuteronomy 31:8 ⁸ It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

Isaiah 41:10 ¹⁰ fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Matthew 11:28 ²⁸ Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

John 15:4-5 ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

SUPPLICATION

Nehemiah closes his prayer by asking God to hear his prayers and to give him success when he approaches the King to be given permission to leave his presence and go and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. He asked God to answer his request.

Nehemiah 1:11 ¹¹ O Lord, let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who delight to fear Your name, and give success to Your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. Now I was cupbearer to the king.

Like Nehemiah, we need to ask God to get rid of this virus. We need to ask God to bless our plans. We need to ask God to renew, restore, and revive His people so a Great Awakening will come in our days and more people will come to know Jesus as Lord.

Ask the Lord to hear our prayers and to lead us in the days to come. Reflect on and pray verses like the following...

Psalm 28:2 ² Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to You for help, when I lift up my hands toward Your most holy sanctuary.

Psalm 86:6-7 ⁶ Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace. ⁷ In the day of my trouble I call upon You, for You answer me.

Psalm 143:1 ¹ Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!

Philippians 4:6-7 ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

FASTING

During this 24-hour Prayer Vigil, we encourage you to spend some time fasting before God. You may decide to fast one meal or the entire day.

When Nehemiah heard the gut-wrenching report that the walls of Jerusalem were in ruins, he fasted (*Nehemiah 1:4*). Fasting is a sign of grieving. Fasting is a sign of humility. When we give up something we need like food, we are getting what we need more in Jesus. When we fast, we become less, while Jesus becomes greater (*John 3:30*). Every loss is for the sake of gaining Jesus Christ.

Fasting helps us focus on God's guidance and plans for our lives. It also helps us focus on Jesus and to enjoy His presence. Fasting helps us seek the Lord during a time of national or world emergency (*Joel 2:15; 2 Chronicles 20:1-4; Ezra 8:21-23*).

Here are a few suggestions about fasting during this time:

- As you fast, spend time in confession and repentance.
- Give thanks and praise to God while you are fasting.
- Dwell on Scripture and learn the truth about Jesus and yourself.
- When you feel hungry, lean on Christ and ask Him to fill you with strength.
- As you fast, seek God's wisdom and guidance about what He wants you to do as we rebuild and who He wants you to be.