

Recapturing Prayer for The Sake Of Our Generation

Big Idea: We will never see revival without recapturing prayer in the church.

1. We Must Recapture Our Burden In Prayer

Nehemiah 1:1-4 (NIV): "The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah: In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, 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. 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.' When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven."

Jerusalem was the heart of Israel's spiritual life, the place where God's presence was manifest in the temple. It was the only place in the entire world where true worship existed!

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2. We Must Recapture Confession Of Sin In Prayer

Nehemiah 1:5-7 (NIV): "Then I said: 'Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 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. We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.'"

Nehemiah's understanding of God's character as a covenant-keeping God gave him confidence in prayer. He knew that despite Israel's unfaithfulness, God remained faithful to His promises.

Numbers 16:31-33

"As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households, and all those associated with Korah, together with their possessions. They went down alive into the realm of the dead, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community."

Confession is an essential part of our relationship with God because it aligns our hearts with His and opens the door for healing and restoration.

3. We Must Recapture Courageous Faith in the Way We Pray

Nehemiah 1:8-11 (NIV):

"Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man."

Too often, our prayers are weak or half-hearted because we don't fully believe that God will do what He has promised.

We need to be willing to stand in the gap for our nation, for our communities, and for our schools, believing that God is still in the business of redemption and restoration.

One way we are doing this is through the Bless Our Schools Initiative.

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