

Shalom, dear child of God. Let's delve into God's Word—the only truth that can truly free a person, breaking every spiritual chain.

Today, by God's grace, we focus on Nehemiah. His story is part of the Holy Scriptures, and his life offers practical lessons in faith and perseverance. Although Nehemiah was not a prophet (see **Amos 7:14-15**) or from a priestly lineage (**Hebrews 7:14**), he held a key position as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes (**Nehemiah 1:11**). This role required trust and close access to the king, symbolizing faithful service in a secular position.

Despite his secular office, Nehemiah demonstrated deep spiritual commitment. When he heard Jerusalem's walls were broken and gates burned (**Nehemiah 1:3**), he was moved to prayer, fasting, and mourning—showing a heart broken for God's people and His holy city. This reflects biblical themes of intercession and burden for God's work (**James 5:16; Romans 8:26-27**).

Remarkably, during his months of mourning and fasting, Nehemiah did not display outward sorrow before the king (**Nehemiah 2:1-2**). This teaches a key spiritual principle: God does not always work through visible emotion or public display. Sometimes, God honors quiet faithfulness and inward dependence.

When Nehemiah finally revealed his burden, the king responded by granting him authority to rebuild Jerusalem's walls (**Nehemiah 2:5**). This is an example of God orchestrating favor through earthly authorities (cf. **Daniel 2:21**), showing that God's providence works through human institutions to accomplish His divine purposes.

Jesus Himself taught a similar principle regarding prayer and fasting:

*“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”*  
— Matthew 6:16-18

This passage warns against hypocrisy and encourages sincerity in spiritual disciplines—emphasizing God's intimate knowledge and reward of secret faith.

Nehemiah's example and Jesus' teaching remind us that God values the

heart attitude more than outward appearances (**1 Samuel 16:7**). True faith often involves persevering quietly and trusting God's timing, even when human recognition is absent.

If you feel far from God or weighed down by life's troubles, remember the peace Jesus offers:

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."*

*— John 14:27*

This peace is a supernatural calm rooted in Christ's presence, distinct from worldly peace which is temporary and fragile.

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