

December 13/14, 2025

“Nehemiah”

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Beyond the
Weekend

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [Nehemiah 1:4](#) | Rebuild

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. [Nehemiah 1:4](#)

Nehemiah serves the king of Persia but longs for his homeland, Israel, to be restored. But after years of warnings, Israel's stubborn disobedience led to war, defeat and exile in a foreign nation 140 years prior. Years later, a new ruling kingdom decrees that scattered Israelites may return home. Yet, ninety years after the decree, few have returned to Jerusalem. Nehemiah hears that the city's wall lies in shambles, with burned gates and people living in fear. His beloved people and city suffer trouble and disgrace. The news breaks him. Nehemiah knows this isn't the way it's supposed to be. God intends his people to reflect his glory and hope to the world. Nehemiah spends extended days mourning, fasting and praying. Something must change.

Eventually, we all face situations that aren't the way they should be. It may be a marriage teetering on the edge, financial troubles, a child's destructive choices or a devastating diagnosis. We know things need to change, but it seems impossible. We can turn to God in our grief and devastation, just as Nehemiah did. We can cry out that this isn't how it should be and grieve with God. We will see in Nehemiah's story how rebuilding isn't simple. But in considering Nehemiah's story, we discover that God is present and cares about our pain. He provides courage, strength and perseverance so we can endure.

TODAY: Evaluate what situation in your life, or someone you care about, isn't how it should be. Pray and grieve, acknowledging the pain. As you do, remember that God is near the brokenhearted ([Psalm 34:18](#)).

Day 2 [Nehemiah 2:11-18](#) | Assess

By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. [Nehemiah 2:13](#)

Nehemiah takes a midnight ride around Jerusalem, three days after arriving. God had impressed upon Nehemiah's heart a desire to rebuild the city wall. Before he could create a plan for the work ahead, it was important for him to assess the damage to the walls honestly. He needed to know the extent of the work ahead.

In a similar way, there will be seasons when we face a rebuild. To start well, we need to make an honest assessment of where things stand. Such an appraisal could be related to many issues, including how well we have been dealing with anger and any relationships we've damaged, the state of our finances and the reality of our debt or generosity, or the health of our marriage and family relationships. Any progress or change in our lives requires taking an honest look at where we are in the moment. The change process is like charting a long trip—it is impossible to map out an accurate course if we do not understand the starting point.

TODAY: Talk with someone who knows you well and ask them to help you assess your life. For instance, assess the health of your marriage or a close relationship by asking this individual, “On a scale of one to ten, how healthy do you believe our

relationship is?” Or, to better understand your own character, ask a trusted friend: “What is one area of my life that you believe has the most room for growth?”

Day 3 [Nehemiah 4:1-10](#) | Persevere

So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart. [Nehemiah 4:6](#)

The Israelites’ muscles ache. Their hands are blistered. The work is physically and emotionally demanding. Their enemies threaten them relentlessly. Yet, Nehemiah and the people are devoted to the work at hand. Though they are tired, overwhelmed and afraid, they keep working, even with weapons strapped to their sides. They persevere because they know God called them to this important work. Though they are tempted to quit, the people do not give up, and they complete the wall in a staggering fifty-two days ([Nehemiah 6:15](#)).

It is common to face stretches of exhaustion and the temptation to give up in any rebuilding effort. Yet, it is during trials that we must persevere and be faithful to do what God called us to do. This is the spouse who commits to being faithful and perseveres even when times are hard. This is the employee who keeps showing up even when work has been incredibly demanding. This is the son or daughter who honors their parents, even in times of distress. Wherever we find ourselves, it is important to be faithful and not give up on what matters most.

TODAY: Take time to talk with God about situations that tempt you to give up. Admit your weaknesses and ask God for the strength to persevere. Use this prayer as a template: “God, I admit I am weary and tired from rebuilding _____. You are the God who supplies the strength I need to do what you desire for me to do. Please give me the strength to persevere. In Jesus’s name, Amen.” Explore Nehemiah’s story further on the ***Beyond the Weekend Podcast***—find it wherever you listen to podcasts or on [YouTube](#).

Day 4 [Nehemiah 4:11-15](#) | Fight

After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, “Don’t be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes.” [Nehemiah 4:14](#)

Nehemiah stands before the discouraged Israelites as they face opposition while rebuilding Jerusalem’s wall. Their enemies mock them, threaten to attack and sow fear among the workers. In this moment of crisis, Nehemiah rallies them, not with military strategy or motivational speeches, but by redirecting their focus. He points them to God’s character—his greatness and awesomeness—and reminds them what’s at stake. He doesn’t tell them to fight and protect themselves, but to protect their families, homes and the future of God’s people.

The Christian life is a call to remember the Lord and fight for others—a life that is most clearly illustrated through the sacrifice of Jesus, the one who came and gave his life for us. Jesus did not seek to protect himself but gave his life to rescue us from sin and death. Jesus models what true courage is all about—the inner strength that enables us to fight for others. This is the strength Jesus has and the strength God desires for each of us.

TODAY: Remember Jesus’s ultimate sacrifice. He lived a perfect life, died on the cross and rose from the dead to free you from sin. Have you received this gift? If you have, then praise the one who came to make a way. Sing “[Glory, Honor and Power](#)” with Ada Bible Worship.



Day 5 [John 10:22-30](#) | Question 49: Eternal Security

Question: What is eternal security?

Answer: Eternal security is the assurance that believers in Christ will not lose their salvation.

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. [John 10:28](#)

Jesus makes this bold claim while he is surrounded by angry religious leaders. They demand that he tell them plainly if he is the Messiah ([John 10:24](#)). Jesus and his followers could be stoned, depending on his answer. In this tense moment, Jesus makes a stunning promise about his followers' security. The imagery of being held in Jesus's and the Father's hands would resonate deeply. Shepherds know the danger of predators trying to snatch sheep from the flock. Jesus assures his followers that God's grip is stronger than any threat. This isn't merely hopeful thinking but Jesus's definitive statement: believers are secure because God himself protects them.

This truth brings immense freedom for growth on our spiritual journeys. Those who have placed their trust in Christ for salvation will not lose their salvation. Eternal security gives us incredible joy, rest and confidence as we pursue following Christ. Without it, we can easily remain in bondage to fear of judgment. Our security rests not in our power but in God's power—the same power that brought Christ back from the dead ([Ephesians 1:18-21](#)). We are “shielded by God's power” ([1 Peter 1:3-5](#)). Salvation is not a ticket easily acquired and clumsily lost; it is a *new life* in Christ, created by God himself through faith. God is highly relational and doesn't take his relationships lightly. Christ never forgives someone only to later condemn them. Those who trust Christ for salvation never need to fear that God will turn his back on them.

TODAY: Thank God for the security you have in Christ. Let this confidence free you to live boldly for him without fear of losing your salvation. Learn more about eternal security in our We Believe document [HERE](#).