

#14 "The Power of Praise in Prayer"

Ready, Pray....Action!

A Study of the book of Nehemiah – Study Notes

Eastside Christian Fellowship: Nov. 25, 2007

"Praise is the means by which God transforms our lives and enables us to do His will and glorify Him." Stormie Omartian

Most of Nehemiah 9 is a beautiful prayer that recalls the past and present of the people whose lives are being rebuilt in Jerusalem. Sandwiched between times of confession (vs 1-3 & 32-35), the bulk of this prayer is a strong reminder of God's unending faithfulness even in the midst of unfaithfulness. It reminds us today that in life we are to start with prayer, not just prayers for our desires and our thanks, but also embedded in our prayer should be a ton of praise for God's greatness, His goodness, His steadfastness and for His unending love for His people.

The Home Group this week is designed to be a time of reflection and praise towards God. Start by reading part of or all of the prayer beginning in the latter half of verse 5 of Neh. 9 to get a flavor of the attitude of the people. Answer the following and take time to let everyone talk.

- ✍ What stands out to you as you read this prayer?
- ✍ What are they praising or blessing God for?
- ✍ Point out the character traits of God that His people are mentioning.
- ✍ How did God show steadfastness in His love?
- ✍ Can you find a time in Israel's history when God's goodness was not evident?
- ✍ What do you learn about your own prayer life from reading this prayer?
- ✍ What is the difference between "praising" God and "thanking" God?

Look back on your own past journey of life? What it is that you want to praise God for? Take a few minutes to make a list. What praise can you give God even during the very hard, sad or challenging times. Share these praises with your small group.

What are specifics that you would praise God for during the times when you may not have been very faithful to Him?

Look now at your present situation. What is it that you want to praise God for? What is evident about His nature as you walk through your life?

What is a name or attribute of God that has meant the most to you?