

THE POWER OF WORSHIP

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.

Psalm 122:1 (KJV)

❖ We will not REGRET.

On the twenty-fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and having dust on their heads. Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners. They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the wickedness of their fathers. They stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshipping the Lord their God. Standing on the stairs were the Levites — who called with loud voices to the Lord their God. And other Levites — said: “Stand up and praise the Lord your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise.”

Nehemiah 9:1-5 (NIV)

1. They gathered together, fasting and in sackcloth... A Sign of CONFESSION.
2. They separated themselves from all foreigners... A Sign of CLEANSING.
3. They read God’s Word and worshipped... A Sign of COMMITMENT.
4. They stood up and Praised the Lord... A Sign of CONSECRATION.

➤ Key Truth: True worship begins when we first GET RIGHT with God.

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10 (NLT)

❖ We will not FORGET.

“You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you. You are the Lord God, who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and named him Abraham. You found his heart faithful to you, and you made a covenant with him to give to his descendants this land. You have kept your promise because you are righteous. You saw the suffering of our forefathers in Egypt; you heard their cry at the Red Sea. You sent miraculous signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his officials and all the people of his land, for you knew how arrogantly the Egyptians treated them. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day... But as soon as they were at rest, they again did what

was evil in your sight. Then you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies so that they ruled over them. And when they cried out to you again, you heard from heaven, and in your compassion you delivered them time after time... For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you admonished them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you handed them over to the neighboring peoples. But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God."

Nehemiah 9:6-10, 28, 30-31(NIV)

1. You alone are LORD... We recognize You as our ONLY HOPE.
 2. You DESERVE our PRAISE... We realize You as FIRST PLACE in our lives.
 3. You are a GRACIOUS and MERCIFUL God... We return to your LOVE.
- Key Truth: A great DANGER is to easily FORGET God's LOVE and LEADING.

"But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:15

❖ We will not NEGLECT.

"Now therefore, O our God, the great, mighty and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love, do not let all this hardship seem trifling in your eyes--... In all that has happened to us, you have been just; you have acted faithfully, while we did wrong. Our kings, our leaders, our priests and our fathers did not follow your law; they did not pay attention to your commands or the warnings you gave them. Even while they were in their kingdom, enjoying your great goodness to them in the spacious and fertile land you gave them, they did not serve you or turn from their evil ways. But see, we are slaves today, slaves in the land you gave our forefathers...Because of our sins, its abundant harvest goes to the kings you have placed over us. They rule over our bodies and our cattle as they please. We are in great distress...In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and our leaders, our Levites and our priests are affixing their seals to it."

Nehemiah 9:32-38 (NIV)

1. Because of our HARD HEARTS and our HARD HEADS we are in a bad place.
 2. We are in BONDAGE in our OWN COUNTRY due to our sins.
 3. In view of our situation we CONFESS our SIN and TURN BACK to you.
- Key Truth: NEGLECTING time daily & weekly with GOD makes you WEAK.

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

- ❖ Closing Truth: If we fail to REMEMBER our past, we are DESTINED to repeat it.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28 (NIV)