

# He Cares for You

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## Happy Wednesday

Nehemiah is the next book in the Old Testament. In reading it, we see how God moves the hearts of people to do what He desires, how He makes a way where there seems to be no way, and how He brings sinful people to be made right with Him.

At this time in history, a city was protected by a wall that was built by hand, usually with stones or wood. The people who lived in Jerusalem had been captured and forced from their homes. The wall surrounding Jerusalem was torn down in that siege and capture, (meaning wild animals could also get in now) and the Holy Temple of God (the only place God could be worshiped and where sacrifices could be offered at that time) was in ruins. God put it on Nehemiah's heart to fix this, but Nehemiah was held captive, living in another country and served that country's king... And so today, we read what Nehemiah prayed when he asked God for help:

“Then I (Nehemiah) 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 1:5-7 NIV

Have you ever prayed like that? Admitting your faults and failures? Acknowledging how small you actually are compared to God? I’m sorry to confess I struggle with that too. It’s easy to go day-to-day and forget the overwhelming power of God and simultaneously forget our small size in comparison. Think about that for a few minutes if you can: God created grass, dirt, ants, trees, plants, life-giving cells, humans, the hair on your head, the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars, aaaall of the galaxies that we know about, and all of the ones we don’t know about. God created the human brain and made it capable of experiencing joy, happiness, love, peace, kindness, faithfulness, relationship with Him, and God created you. The Bible reminds us that EVERY good thing comes from God above. And then what can we create? We weren’t in control of when we were born and we entered the world with nothing. Everything we have comes from the Good Hand of God. And He still cares about the details of your life. He still cares about things that matter to you - as long as those things are not against Him - because He cares FOR you.

Again, I ask you, do you pray like Nehemiah, recognizing the smallness of the one who is talking to the One Who holds everything together? Sometimes I forget that the power of prayer is not in the one who says it (me) but in the One Who hears it.

Holy Father, You are truly marvelous and wonderful. Help me be humble before you, to remember my shortcomings, my sins, my failures, and faults, and confess them to You. Make my

desire to truly be right with You in all things. You alone hold all the power, glory, honor, dominion, and strength. Because of Your power in Jesus the Messiah's life, death, resurrection, and ascension, we can worship You away from the Holy Temple of Jerusalem. Help me to worship You in spirit and in Truth, according to Your Word in the book of John. Teach me what is right and true in Your eyes and give me the courage and boldness to obey what You say. I pray in Jesus' Mighty Name - Amen.

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