

"Life's Lessons From Nehemiah" From Dedication to Disinterest and Disobedience

1. Take your stand against the attacks, and confront the enemy from within

"On the twenty-fourth day of the same month the people of Israel gathered to fast in order to show sorrow for their sins. They had already separated themselves from all foreigners. They wore sackcloth and put dust on their heads as signs of grief. Then they stood and began to confess the sins that they and their ancestors had committed. For about three hours the Law of the Lord their God was read to them, and for the next three hours they confessed their sins and worshiped the Lord their God."

Nehemiah 9:1-3 (TEV)

2. The enemy within is the flesh, compelling you to sin

"Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, 'You must not covet.' But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power. At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life, and I died. So I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead. Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me. But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy

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**Please feel free to come down to the front
for prayer after service.**

"...pray for one another..." James 5:16

and right and good. But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes. So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it."

Romans 7:7-17 (NLT)

3. New assignments can reveal broken places and the vulnerable entrances into your life

- **What areas in your life have you left unprotected or broken down?**
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• Three Important Steps I Must Take

4. I must separate myself from sin and ungodliness

- **Sin arouses the flesh**
- **Sin perverts knowledge**
- **Sin requires permission**

"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."

Nehemiah 9:2 (NIV)

"Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God."

Romans 6:12-13 (NLT)

5. Let revelation lead to breakthrough

"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."

Nehemiah 9:34-35 (NIV)

6. Make a binding agreement between you and the Lord

"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 9:38 (NIV)

- **I must have the right attitude**
- **It takes the right responses**