

# **Our Response to God's Word**

**Nehemiah 7:73b-818**

## **1. Requesting the Needed Discipleship Vs. 1-8**

The Israelites instructed Ezra to read out loud the book of the Law of Moses and the Levites provided the necessary teaching, as they desired to learn God's word, and understand clearly how to apply God's Word to their lives.

God's Word will become clear and understandable to anyone who chooses to initiate discipleship with someone who knows God's Word, and comes to church with the focus of becoming a mature multiplying disciple.

## **2. Rejoicing in the Received Strength: Vs. 9-12**

Although the Israelites reaction to understanding scripture was one of mourning, Ezra and the leadership guided the Israelites to begin rejoicing in the Lord, as the teaching from God's Word led to them having the joy of the LORD as their renewed strength.

Although growing in understanding of Scripture can lead to mourning over our sinful ways, rejoicing in the Lord is our focus, as through the learning and understanding of God's Word we will have the joy of the LORD being our renewed strength.

## **3. Ready to Apply Scripture Properly Vs. 13-18**

As the heads of all families studied with the priests, Levites, and Ezra the words of the Law, they experienced a renewed excitement towards the "Feast of Tabernacles"; understanding the importance of following every instruction with precision, the reason for this festival, and how it continues to be relevant for them as God's people.

God's Word remains the same, but allowing for understanding, clarity and relevancy for each new generation can only happen when we take the time in studying it. God's Word will always be relevant for our lives.

**Reflection:**

- How has the joy of the Lord renewed your strength? What promises or truths from God's Word that cause you to rejoice and be strengthened?
- What is the difference between loving God's Word and being obligated to learn it?
- What does a life devoted to God's Word look like? Am I choosing to have God's Word to feed my soul?