

Confession Leads To Praise & Commitment

Nehemiah 9

1. God The Creator- The Giver of Life vs. 1-6

As the people of Israel began reading the word of God, this led to confession, recognizing they have fallen short to God's standard. The Levites transitioned this confession to praises, as God is the one true God who chose to give them life.

God uses His word to convict us of our sin which creates tremendous sadness and despair (Psalm 119:9). However, in confession, joy and praise is released, as the weight of our sin has been lifted.

Praise God! God chose to give me life, even though He knew that I would sin against Him.

2. God's Faithfulness- Our Unfaithfulness vs. 7-21

The Israelites realized that God has always been faithful to them; keeping His promises, and continued to guide, provide, and protect them even though they are stiff necked rebellious people. This confession led to praise, as God is faithful.

We have all been unfaithful to God, chosen to not listen to His word and live our own ways. However, God remains faithful through the grace, mercy and love that He lavishes upon His people by how he provides, guides and protects us. This confession leads us to praise, as God is faithful.

3. God Our Deliverer- Gracious and Merciful vs. 22-37

The Israelites observed the repeated history of their people sinning against God, receiving God's judgment, crying out to God when oppressed and then God providing deliverance. This observation led them to the understanding that they are once again slaves today in the Persian empire because of their people's rebellion towards God. This confession led to praise, as because of God's grace and mercy, God remains their deliverer.

We are all have trapped in the bondage of our sin, as all of humanity rebels against God. However, Jesus, the Son of God, is our deliverer! He came to this earth save us from the bondage of our sin through dying on the cross for our sin and rising again three days later. Anyone who confesses their sin and believes in Him shall be set free to live for God.

Confession leads to praising God for providing us the Messiah, as He is a God of grace, mercy and love.

Questions:

- How does God's unwavering faithfulness to the Israelites inspire you in your current circumstances?
- "But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love. Therefore you did not desert them." (vs. 17b) Nothing keeps us from God from pardoning our sin except our refusal to come to Father God through the Son of God Jesus Christ. What aspects of life that could/would lead us to refuse God that we should be mindful of?
- Israel's reflection on their past allowed them to learn key lessons. What do you want to remember about your past so you won't forget its lessons?