



DAILY DEVOTIONS



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

DISC

NEHEMIAH 8:1-8

The people responded to God's Word by saying, "Amen! Amen!" Often, a word written twice in Hebrew is for emphasis. It's as if the people were screaming, "It is the truth! God tastes better to the hungry. Water is more refreshing to the thirsty. The bread is more than half a century away from home in a land of dolls. Finally safe at home, God's Word gave them more in that moment than anything else had given them in their lifetime."

WHY CAN WE TRUST THAT GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH?

HOW CAN WE GROW IN OUR HUNGER FOR GOD'S WORD?

Pray thank the Lord that His Word is truth and His Spirit can guide you into all truth. Ask the Lord to increase your hunger for His Word as you study it.

NEHEMIAH 8:9-12

WHY DOES REPENTING OFTEN COME BEFORE REJOICING?

WHAT IN YOUR LIFE MIGHT YOU NEED TO REPENT AND TURN AWAY FROM?

God's Word brings conviction before it bears joy. God's Word shows us where off in our attitudes and actions. Conviction draws us to God. God's kindness and invitation draw us to repent. Repentance is a change of thinking that leads to a change of doing. Repentance is the turning away from our sins. It is the turning away from what is wrong and toward what is right. God's Word brings conviction before it bears joy. God's Word shows us where off in our attitudes and actions. Conviction draws us to God. God's kindness and invitation draw us to repent. Repentance is a change of thinking that leads to a change of doing. Repentance is the turning away from our sins. It is the turning away from what is wrong and toward what is right. God's Word brings conviction before it bears joy.

Pray: Ask God's Holy Spirit to bear His joy in you as you follow the Lord. Tell God about any sorrow and sadness you're feeling. Ask Him to comfort you and fill you with joy.

NEHEMIAH 8:10-12

While the people's sorrow was right, the day was set apart for celebrating God's grace. The people were told to wrap up the weeping, dry the tears, and get to celebrating. The people needed strength to serve God in this new season of life. That strength would not come from sorrow but the fullness of God's joy. Immediately, sorrow turned into joyous celebration. There is always fullness of joy in the Lord available to strengthen our service to Him (see John 10:10).

WHY DOES GOD WANT TO TURN OUR SORROWS INTO JOY?

IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE DO YOU NEED GOD'S JOY TO STRENGTHEN YOU?

Pray: Ask God's Holy Spirit to bear His joy in you as you follow the Lord. Tell God about any sorrow and sadness you're feeling. Ask Him to comfort you and fill you with joy.

DAY 10

NEHEMIAH 8:13-18

WHY DOES GOD WANT US TO REJOICE AND CELEBRATE?

HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN OUR CELEBRATING IS PLEASING AND HONORING TO GOD?

For the first time in a very long time God's people experienced a solid week of celebration. It was the best kind of celebration—*one with God and without regret.* There was no "and/or" in sight. No one was putting spiritual desires they were putting spiritual requirements. Sin produced unnecessary suffering. Obedience produced exceeding joy in God's amazing grace. Seventy years of removal in Babylon were overshadowed by seven days of rejoicing in the Holy Spirit.

Pray: Take time to think of some things you're thankful to God for. Give Him thanks and praise for each one. Ask Him to show you how to celebrate God's grace His way and walk in God's joy.

DAY 11

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17

Ezra is described as being "skilled in the law of Moses" (Ezra 7:6). This means that in any situation he faced, he was quick to look to and apply God's Word. We can't apply what we don't possess. Ezra could quickly apply God's Word because he had readily studied it. As we steadily study the Word of God, the God of the Word will readily help us apply His truth in every situation we face it.

HOW DOES GOD'S WORD EQUIP US FOR EVERY GOOD WORK?

WHAT'S ONE PRACTICAL STEP YOU CAN TAKE TODAY TO APPLY GOD'S WORD IN YOUR LIFE?

Pray: Ask the Lord to empower you to study and apply His Word each day.