

# The Path to Restoration

## Cultivating Spiritual Renewal

### Nehemiah 8

#### Introduction

In Chapter 8, Nehemiah's prayer finally prevails as the Spirit of God works through the scriptures to bring revival to the people of God. How would you feel about a service that contained about six hours of Bible reading? Can you believe that's what the people ask for in this chapter!

1. It was a time of unusual spiritual \_\_\_\_\_. At the center of this revival was a focus on the Scripture.
2. Chapter 8 teaches us that God \_\_\_\_\_ us with open arms whenever we turn to Him for help.
3. Spiritual renewal begins with an emphasis on God's \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Holy Spirit breathes life from the scriptures into our hearts and \_\_\_\_\_ us to seek after God.

#### I. Read God's Word

5. The priests read the Book of the Law publicly from dawn until \_\_\_\_\_!
6. Paul instructs Timothy to give attention "to the \_\_\_\_\_ reading of Scripture." (I Timothy 4:13).
7. Spiritual renewal in your life begins by \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word.
8. The first five books of the Bible are called the \_\_\_\_\_ by the Jews.
9. These books were Israel's instruction \_\_\_\_\_ for how to walk before God.
10. By the time Nehemiah came to Jerusalem, the people were already beginning to experience a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

11. Nehemiah knew Ezra was devoted to God and believed under Ezra's \_\_\_\_\_, everyone would listen to the priests read the Word of God.

12. The people wanted to hear the Word of God and \_\_\_\_\_ to listen to it.

## II. Accept God's Word

13. Secondly, spiritual renewal occurs when we \_\_\_\_\_ what God says.

14. Just because you have ears that work does not guarantee that you can \_\_\_\_\_ what's being said.

15. The \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't just contain the words of God; they are the words of God.

16. When Ezra opened the Torah, the people \_\_\_\_\_ up as if to greet a royal visitor, and then they bowed down in worship.

17. They weren't worshipping the scroll that Ezra held in his hand; they worshipped the \_\_\_\_\_ who gave them the scroll.

18. The greatest preparation for spiritual renewal takes place in the \_\_\_\_\_.

19. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word can be so much greater when a person can see others who support it.

20. When the people prayed and praised the Lord, they lifted up their \_\_\_\_\_. Then they worshipped by bowing down before the Lord.

## III. Understand God's Word

21. Spiritual renewal occurs when we \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word.

22. The priests with Ezra \_\_\_\_\_ the law to the people.

23. Some Scripture passages are difficult to grasp, but God has given the church pastors and teachers to help people understand and \_\_\_\_\_ His Word to their lives.
24. To properly apply the Bible, you must \_\_\_\_\_ it correctly.
25. To correctly interpret it, you must \_\_\_\_\_ what the author meant and the context of his writing.
26. Sound biblical teaching must be accurate, \_\_\_\_\_, and applicable to life.
27. Secondly, it requires \_\_\_\_\_ from the teacher and the students.
28. We see this principle in Nehemiah 8. Nehemiah was a gifted \_\_\_\_\_ who could organize and mobilize people to get the wall built.
29. The Holy Spirit anointed Ezra and helped the people to \_\_\_\_\_ God's ways.

#### **IV. Respond to the Word**

30. I Corinthians 8:1 says that knowledge apart from obedience leads to arrogance and \_\_\_\_\_.
31. The goal of spiritual renewal is to \_\_\_\_\_ our lives, making us humble and thankful people.
32. Their first response was one of \_\_\_\_\_.
33. The Word of God \_\_\_\_\_ us and exposes our sinfulness.
34. Spiritual renewal always involves repentance, but it also involved a new \_\_\_\_\_!
35. The people accept Ezra's \_\_\_\_\_ and choose to rejoice.

36. To apply what we learn from God's Word requires a deliberate and determined \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
37. The Feast of Sukkot or "\_\_\_\_\_" commemorates the Exodus and Israel's dependence on the will of God.
38. The people gave God all the \_\_\_\_\_ for what they were able to accomplish!

## Conclusion

39. It is so great when people come to church with reverence for God and say, "God, \_\_\_\_\_ me! I am desperate to know You more!"
40. God will take the pain and misery that has rendered you powerless and replace it with strength and faith to \_\_\_\_\_.

If you take to heart what God is saying today, you can experience this spiritual renewal for yourself. Verse 18 concludes by saying, "Day by day, from the first day until the last day, they read from the Book of the Law of God." Establish a habit of obedience and surrender to God, and let His miracle and revival transform your life. The Holy Spirit will make sure of it!

## ANSWERS

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|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Renewal     | 16. Stood         | 31. Transform  |
| 2. Welcomes    | 17. God           | 32. Repentance |
| 3. Word        | 18. Heart         | 33. Convicts   |
| 4. Inspires    | 19. Impact        | 34. Joy        |
| 5. Noon        | 20. Hands         | 35. Counsel    |
| 6. Public      | 21. Understand    | 36. Obedience  |
| 7. Honoring    | 22. Explained     | 37. Booths     |
| 8. Torah       | 23. Apply         | 38. Credit     |
| 9. Manual      | 24. Interpret     | 39. Teach      |
| 10. Awaking    | 25. Understand    | 40. Overcome   |
| 11. Guidance   | 26. Clear         |                |
| 12. Sacrificed | 27. Commitment    |                |
| 13. Accept     | 28. Administrator |                |
| 14. Hear       | 29. Discern       |                |
| 15. Bible      | 30. Pride         |                |