

God's commands as they reinstated and celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles (Neh. 8:14; 9:38). **This is revival.**

ACF Women  
September 25, 2015

### God forgave Israel and He has forgiven us

*"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" Eph 1:7*

### We have a Feast to Celebrate!

*"They found written in the Law...that the Israelites were to live in temporary shelters during the festival of the seventh month." Neh 8:14*

- God gave Israel a feast and He gives us His table
- "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." Lk 22:19

### All Israel was filled with Joy and so are we

*"...And there was very great gladness." Neh 8:17*

- "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice **with joy unspeakable** and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." 1 Pt 1:8-9

Let's seek the Lord, pray, tell Him we love Him, obey what He lays on our heart through His Word and allow Him to REVIVE us, filling us with joy evermore!

## The Remedy for same 'ol, same 'ol

...REVIVAL

Read Nehemiah 8 & 9

We've all experienced the feeling of same 'ol, same 'ol – even in our spiritual lives. The book of Nehemiah provides a beautiful picture of our Christian walk and the need each of us has for revival... But why is it essential, how do we "get" it, and what does it look like?

### We Need Revival Because...

Our hearts are prone to grow hard (Hos 10:12; Acts 28:27), we forget God's goodness (Ps. 103:2; 105:5), just like the glory on Moses' face, our experiences dim and we need to be reminded of God's power and authority over everything (2 Pt 1:12; Rev 2:4, 5).

Here in Nehemiah, life had settled down in Jerusalem. The walls were rebuilt and the people had settled into "normal" life (Neh.7:73). This is a great picture of the Christian walk. There is the initial excitement of being born again, followed by potential spiritual battles and the hard work of re-building the broken walls. There comes a time when the walls are finally built up and we settle into church. That brings us to the need of **REVIVAL**.

God knows we are prone to forget His goodness (Ps 103:14), so He told us to stir our hearts to **REMEMBER** Him. Then He gave us examples of what that looks like and the fruit it bears (Neh 8; 1 Cor 10:11).

### Gather Together

*"And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate..." Neh 8:1*

The importance of gathering together with the intent to hear from the Lord cannot be overemphasized! **Jesus is in the midst of His people. When we gather in His name – He is there!**

- “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.” Act 2:1-2

Look up More

Ps 73:16, 17; Rev 1:13; Matt 18:20; Jer 29:13

### Read God’s Word (Aloud)

“...And he [Ezra] read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.” Neh 8:1, 3

- “Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” Eph 5:19

### The People Gathered outside the Water Gate

- REMEMBER, Jesus gives living water (Jn 4:13, 14). His Word fills, washes, and purifies (Jn 7:38; 1 Cor 10:4; Jn 17:17).
- Jesus is the gate: “I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.” Jn 10:9 NIV

### God’s Word Softens Hearts

“So they read in the book... and caused them to understand...For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.” Neh 8:8, 9

- God’s Word, watered by the Spirit is a light into our soul. 1 Jn 5:6-9

Look up More

Heb 4:12; Isa 55:11; 2 Tim 3:16, 17; Jas 1:22;  
Lk 11:28; Ps 18:30; Mat 4:4, 24:35; Col 3:16

### Respond to God’s Word

“And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people... and all the people stood up: And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground.” Neh 8:5-6

- Israel’s response begins with “Amen”, meaning **so be it**. When God reveals something in His Word to our heart, our response should certainly be **“So be it, LORD”** followed with lifted hands, bowed heads, and worship.

Look up More

1 Tim 2:8; Acts 2:38; 2 Tim 2:4; Ps 95:6, 105:1-5

### Repent, Confess, Worship

“...the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes...and separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers... and worshipped the LORD their God.” Neh 9:1-3

- “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...” Act 3:19
- “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us...” 1 Jn 1:9
- “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth...” Jhn” 4:23

Look up More

Act 17:30; Rev 3:3, 19; 1 Cor 6:11; Tit 2:14

### Then comes Reassurance, Rejoicing, Restoration

“...Go your way ...neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” Neh 8:10

- Nehemiah, as a picture of the Holy Spirit, comforted Israel and told them to **rejoice and be glad**. They experienced joy as a result, and were strengthened in the joy of the Lord (Neh. 8:9-10). They recounted all God had done for them (Neh. 9:5-37); and their hearts were set on obeying