

Title: It's Built, Now What?

Subtitle: The Cycle of Building-Repentance, Confession, Praise & Commitment

Scripture: Nehemiah 9 & 10 ESV

Fill in the Blank: Building God's way is a **Journey**, not a **Destination**

MAIN IDEA

Building is an on-going, cyclical journey. That journey requires humility, repentance, confession, praise and commitment. In Nehemiah 9 & 10, we see the Jewish people participate fully in those activities, even after they had completed the project God gave them to do. Both as a community and as individuals, we must never stop repenting, praising and committing to God.

POINT 1.) HUMILITY

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. Nehemiah 9:1

- When we build God's way it moves us to humility. Humility takes intentionality.

POINT 2.) HUMILITY ⇒ REPENTANCE

And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins

Nehemiah 9:2

- When we build God's way, it allows us to see how perfect God is but also how easily we miss the mark in comparison.
- Repentance isn't something we get to be finished with after we come to Jesus.
- When we are successful in building God's way, you must present yourselves humbly to God and to the outside world, so they'll see Jesus.

POINT 3.) REPENTANCE ⇒ CONFESSION

- Confession is really exploring the specific ways that God is still shaping, purifying and forming us into His image. It highlights that God is still good in our life.
- Confession should orient us toward hope and it should always lead to praise.

POINT 4.) CONFESSION ⇒ PRAISE

You are the LORD, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham. You found his heart faithful before you, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite

Nehemiah 9:6

- We don't just confess who we are, and what we've done, but also who God is and what God has done.
- Building God's way is not linear in the way we want it to be linear, but God is not alarmed by the ups and downs of our journey.
- Building God's way requires telling the truth
- Building God's way depends more on His character and behavior and consistency than ours.

POINT 5.) HUMILITY ⇒ CONFESSION ⇒ PRAISE ⇒ PRAISE=COMMITMENT

Because of all this, we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests. Nehemiah 9:38

- Building God's way requires commitment and often that commitment has a cost
- If we are going to continue building God's way, we need everyone on board
- Building God's way is cyclical.

CLOSING

- Prayer for Humility
- Prayer for Confession
- Prayer for Freedom to Praise
- Prayer for Commitment
- Call for Prayerful Support