

Introduction:

The Pain of personal failure:

³When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night Your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And You forgave the guilt of my sin."

Psalm 32:3-5 (NIV)

The Pathway to restoration:

⁶Therefore let all the faithful pray to You while You may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. ⁷You are my hiding place; You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance."

Psalm 32:6-7 (NIV)

The Promise of God's deliverance:

⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. ⁹Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. ¹⁰Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in Him."

Psalm 32:8-10 (NIV)

The Problem: How does it actually work?

**Our Model – Nehemiah 8
3 Conditions for Spiritual Restoration**

1. We must return to the _____.

Nehemiah 8:1-8

• **What did they do?**

➤ They took _____.

➤ They invested _____.

➤ They listened _____.

• **How did they do it?**

➤ They came before God in _____.

➤ They read the Word _____.

➤ They explained the Word _____.

➤ They worshipped God _____.

• **What about us? You?**

2. We must respond to the _____ . Nehemiah 8:9-12

• What did they do?

- They _____ over their sin.
- They received a word of _____.
- They experienced the _____ of obedience.

• How did they do it?

- They responded from the _____.
- They focused on God's great _____ rather than their _____.
- They _____ God's Word for today.

• What about us? You?

3. We must _____ it to our lives. Nehemiah 8:13-18

• **What did they do?**

- Fathers and leaders came to be _____.
- They discovered a command to _____.
- They “went out” and obeyed _____.

• **How did they do it?**

- They recognized their need for spiritual _____.
- They focused on present obedience instead of past _____.
- They developed a new _____ of intake and obedience to God’s Word.

• **What about us? You?**

Discussion Questions:

1. What impressed you most about Nehemiah 8? Why?
2. Share a passage from the Bible with the group that reinforces the power of God’s Word in our lives. (i.e. Psalm 19, Hebrews 4:12, Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
3. Which of the three conditions for spiritual restoration most applies to your life right now? Why?
4. How has God used His Word in your life in the past?
5. What specific step or direction do you sense God would have you take to prepare you for a deeper work of the Spirit in and through your life? What might that look like this week?