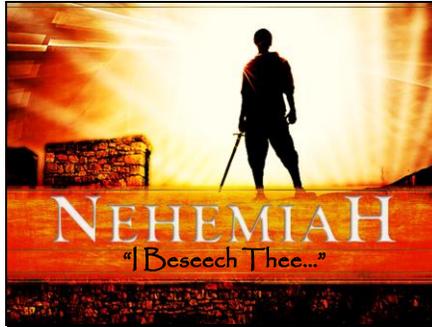


Slide 1



## I Beseech Thee ~ Part 1 of 5

Nehemiah 1:4-6

36 O Thou in Whose

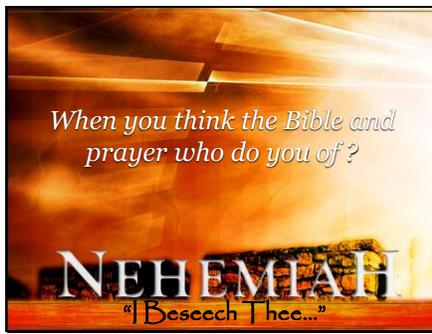
Presence

39 Lord, In The Morning

Alt: 483 I Need The Every Hour

See: Sermon Notes / Handouts / and  
CD Labels also

Slide 2



## Intro Who Comes to Mind?

When you think about prayer and the Bible is there a certain biblical character that comes to mind?...

**Jesus** perhaps who spent whole nights in prayer...

**Paul** perhaps who often breaks into prayer in the midst of his letters or ends with a prayer of edification... Or maybe **Jeremiah**... who wept buckets of tears over his apostatizing nation refusing to repent... What about

**Daniel**... more willing to be Cat food...great big Cats!.. than to stop praying openly three times a day

## Scriptures are full of prayers...

prophets and priest... and common people...

Prayers... of **fear**... and of **faith**... of **sadness**... and of joy... **thanksgiving**... prayers for **forgiveness**... prayers for **help** in times of need...

When there was **no place to look but up**... most people turn to prayer... they say there are **no foxhole atheist**

**God Hears & Answers:** Scripture is full of prayers... I think that one reason the

Holy Spirit inspired the authors of scripture to record their prayers is **to show that God both hears and answers** the prayer of the faithful...

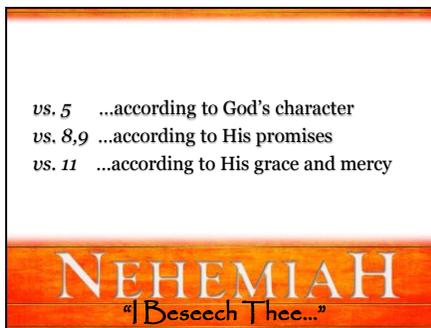
**A Model:** Secondly... I believe that they are there to **show us when... where... why ... and how to pray...** in other words... they are **models of** successful communications with God... for us **to study and imitate**

Slide 3



Three times in this chapter Nehemiah says... " beseech thee" verses 5... 8... and 11

Slide 4



**Lets look at these together**

**Vs 5 According to His character:** "And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments"

**Vs 8.9 According to His Promises:** "Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations: 9 But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though

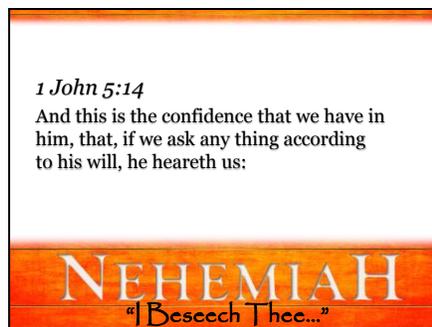
there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.”

Vs 11 **According to His Mercy:** “O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king’s cupbearer.

Nehemiah knew God’s will for His people... and His promises... and His merciful grace  
So he knew he could confidently approach God and entreat Him God to act on their behalf

John tells us pointedly:

Slide 5



When what we are requesting is in accordance with God’s will we can have confidence that He hears us... and not only that but will grant our request also

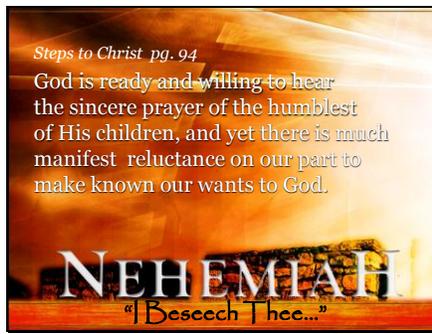
**v15** And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

God is so willing and able to answer any prayer in harmony with His will... in harmony with our best interest... That John says... “this is the confidence” ...that means we can “take it to the bank” ...it is more than a promise it’s a guarantee... and John

would know... when he penned these words he had had some **60+ years of experience** as a devoted disciple.

The book ***Steps to Christ*** ... puts it this way:

Slide 6



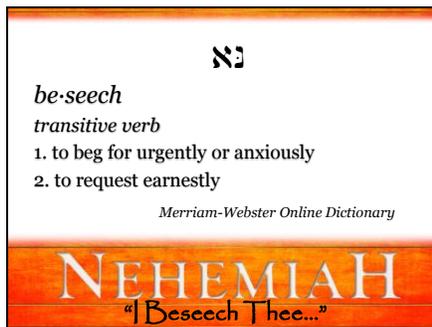
Why the reluctance?

Perhaps it has to do with our **“I can do it myself”** inherent nature... Perhaps it stems from **a lack of trust**... revealing a marginal relationship with the Father

What ever our reason... Nehemiah did not suffer from this... “manifest reluctance”

In fact He was just the opposite... He pled with God... “I beseech thee!” was his repeated phrase

Slide 7



**What does this mean?**

The original Hebrew root word...

נש 04994naw... is usually rendered: "I pray," **“now,”** or "then,"

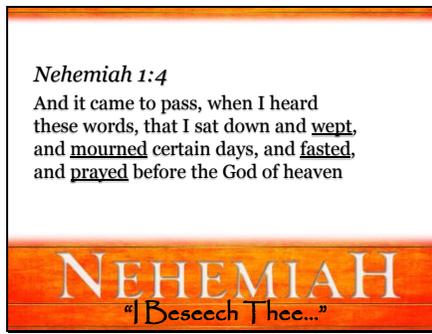
Here the context indicated the **“now”** ...the sense of urgency and earnestness in Nehemiah’s request

To express this... the English translators chose the phrase **“I beseech thee”**

**Three times:** He chose this not only because of his confidence but because of his earnestness

## Let's look at Nehemiah 1:4

Slide 8



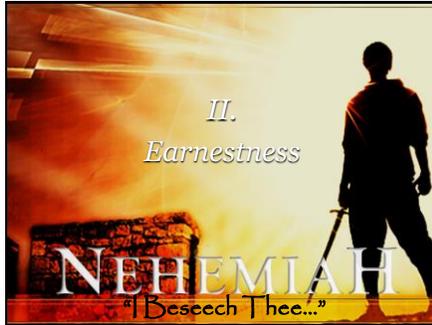
The city and Sanctuary...were **symbols of God covenant**... and the great power with which He had chosen and lead his people Israel... and the ruins **now 70+ years old**... **symbolized the stiff necked rebellion** of his people...

Do you see Nehemiah urgency... do you see his sense of need... do you see realization... knowing that God and God alone can help.

**Sensing our need is one of the prerequisite** conditions upon which we may expect that God will hear and answer our prayers.

It **creates in us** an:

Slide 9



Like we see in first few verses of Nehemiah

Earnestness... perhaps best defined by its **synonyms**... serious, intense, resolute, determined, committed, eager, and fervent

This was Nehemiah... he was **down right sick** about the fact that God's city and Sanctuary lay in ruins...

I beseech thee express this **need**... this **trust**... this **earnestness**... and the actions that followed... illustrated Nehemiah heart felt earnestness even more.

We have a **promise signed in blood** of God willingness to answer our earnest sincere requests

**Paul says:**

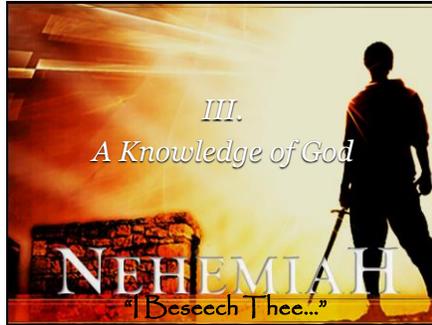
Slide 10



We need to believe and we need to ask and we need serious in the asking... with **weeping and fasting earnestly requesting trusting** he hears us

Nehemiah was in earnest... The **third characteristic** of prevailing prayer is:

Slide 11



This is **more than just knowing about** God...

It is a **familiarity with** God personally... His character... His ways... His will  
Nehemiah could thus say with boldness and certainty:

Slide 12

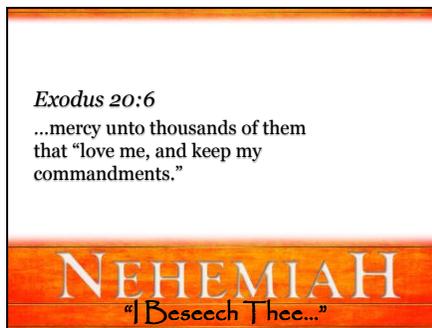


Nehemiah knew... **those who choose what pleases** God... and who hold fast to His covenant...  
where those who **can boldly beseech** God's involvement in their daily affairs

Love and commandment keeping **go hand and hand**... you can't have one without the other!

In Exodus 20:6 God says he shows:

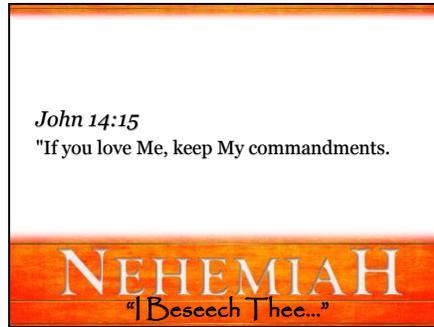
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Love has **always been the chief principle** and **only expectable motive** of obedience

That's why Jesus said:

Slide 14

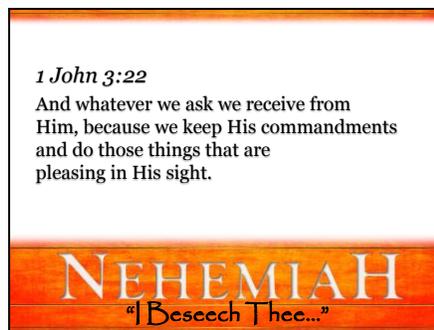


The essential knowledge of God is knowing his character and choosing what pleases Him... Look at these two definitive statements in John's 1<sup>st</sup> epistles:

Slide 15



Slide 16



To know God is to love Him... to love Him is to obey Him... so to know him is to understand His will and thus to receive what we ask for

Nehemiah could say... I beseech thee... three times in this prayer... because **he knew God's character...**

He **understood His will... he believed in God's greatness...** His terrible majesty... His faithfulness... and His mercy

**To know God in this way is to ask much and to expect much!**

Nehemiah's forth characteristic of

prevailing prayer is :

Slide 17



**Def:** To make a **persistent or pressing request...**

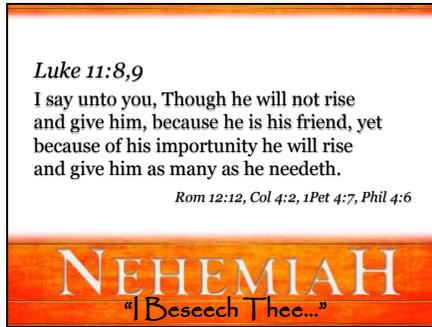
**vs6** hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night,

Where Earnestness has to do with intensity... Importunity has to do **with longevity**

It was **the widows persistent** asking by which she received her request...

Likewise... Jesus told of a **man knocking** at a friend's nighttime door

Slide 18



Be "instant in prayer," Romans 12:12 "continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving."; Colossians 4:2.

Peter exhorts believers to be "sober, and watch unto prayer." 1 Peter 4:7. Paul directs, "In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians 4:6.

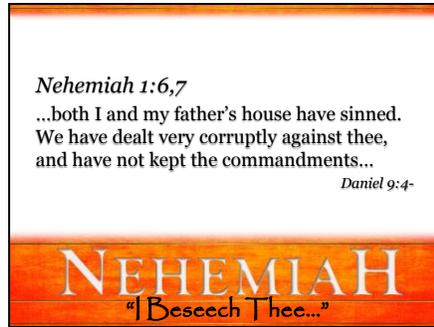
**Importunity**... then is to stick to your request ...until God answers

However along with knowing God and His will... and being Earnest and Persevering we have some heart work to do... Thus our fifth characteristic is :

Slide 19



Slide 20

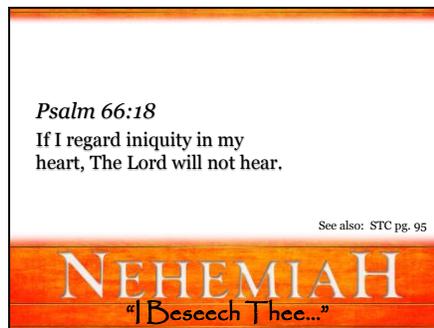


Remember Daniel in Chapter 9 of his book...

4 And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,  
5 "we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.

David recognized this also when he wrote:

Slide 21



**STC pg95** If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is always accepted.

Our sixth characteristic of prevailing prayer is:

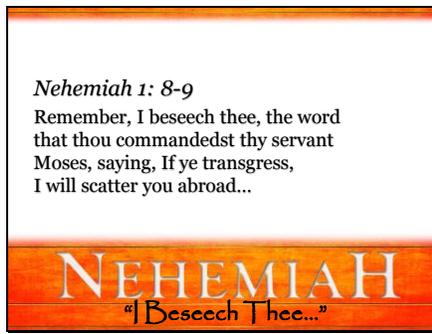
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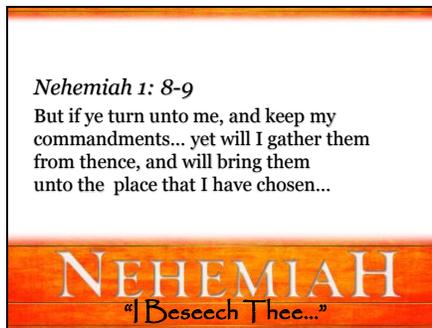
Faith not only... “Believing that God is” but trusting in his promises

**Faith lays hold of the spoken word of God and trust His promises**

Slide 23



Slide 24



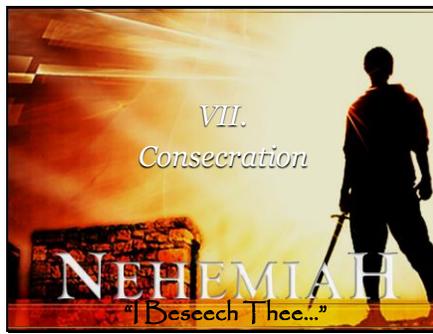
In Childlike confidence Nehemiah knew he could request and thus trust because God had promised and thus we can lay hold of God’s promises also

In **vs10** he reminds God that they are his covenant people the treasure of his hand... his redeemed... they themselves are the evidence of his great love... and strong saving grace...

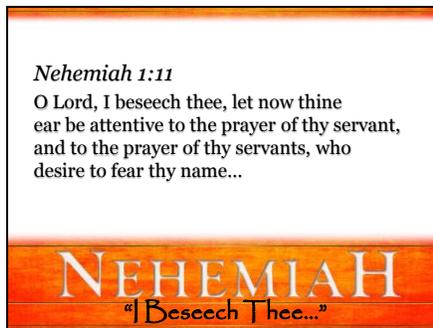
**God keeps His promises...** and Nehemiah knew it... so by faith he claimed it

**Our Last Principle of prevailing Prayer:**

Slide 25



Slide 26



Nehemiah could for the third time Beseech God because he knew that God answers the prayers of those who fear and reverence Him...

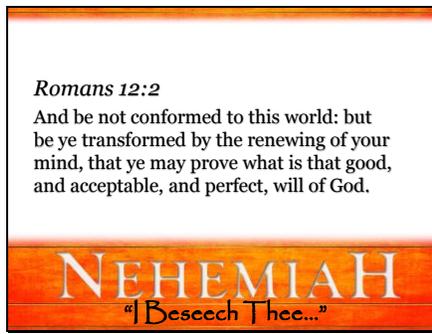
Nehemiah was God's servant... Someone has said... there are **three classes** of servants: the slave who serves from fear and bondage... the hireling who serves for wages... and the son who serves from love

It is those who present themselves a living sacrifice that are able to prove what is the good and expectable and perfect will of God...

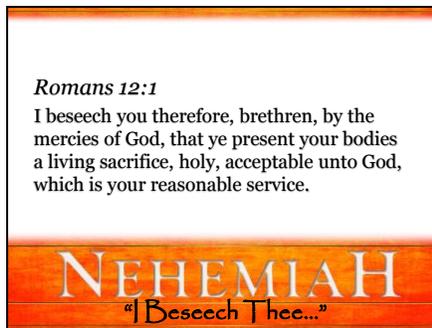
**Romans 12:1,2**

All those Years ago God had given them  
the remedy:

Slide 27

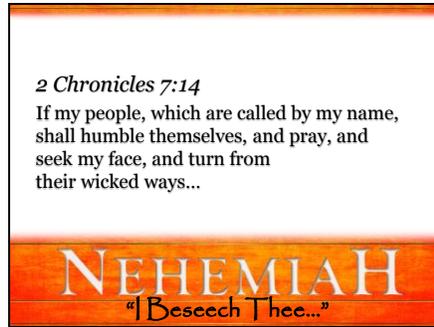


Slide 28



God pled similarly with Israel of old in 2  
Chronicles:

Slide 29



Slide 30



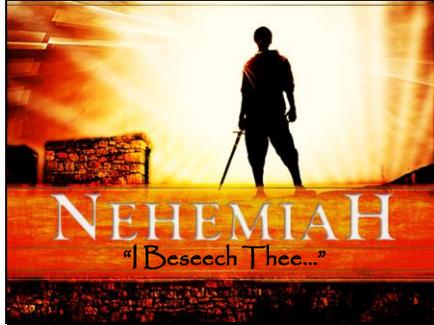
Nehemiah knew his prayer was in harmony with God's will... for he had promised their return through His prophets

Thus he could say in earnest persevering faith... "I beseech thee" God... I know your way... I trust Your promises...

I have sought your cleansing and consecrated my self in servitude to your will...

So now I ask... indeed I beg... forgive your people and heal their land!

Slide 31



39 Lord, in the Morning

Alt: 483 I Need Thee Every Hour

When Mrs. Annie Hawks wrote this poem in 1872... she was a 37 year old mother of three... it was bright June Morning... when in the midst of her routine daily toils that these words sparked into her mind... as she pondered how anyone could live without the nearness of God... in joy or pain... “I need Thee every hour” she thought... with the tune by Robert Lowry the song quickly became popular and was the solace to many a soul... but it wasn’t until 17 years later after the death of her dear husband that the very words she had penned came home to Annie Hawks and returned to her the solace they had provided so many others “I need Thee... O I need thee...”