Part III
His Strength is Perfect
Nehemiah 8:5, 9-12
Sermon Outline

1. His Joy is Our Strength (vs. 9b-10):

1. God’s people demonstrated a repentant heart when they heard the Word of God.
2. They were not supposed to focus on their feelings but on God’s with gladness (Psalm 5:7; Philippians 4:8-9).
3. God does not like it when we come to worship with a need for our feelings to be cared for. He wants us to come remembering His goodness, power and might (Psalm 95:2; Colossians 3:15-16). Even when it comes to giving He says to do that cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).
4. God loves gladness in His presences (Psalm 95:2; Colossians 3:15-16).
5. The day of their teaching was devoted to God and was viewed as pure.
6. God experiences joy when we respect His holy day (Hebrews 10:19-25).
7. That day is a day of devotion because it is for the one who has all authority, is their majestic ruler (magnified by the fact that wall is completed and the enemies are no longer strong against them; 6:19), and must be reverenced and feared by all men. He is not just ruler and creator of all, He is also the one who judges the earth.
8. Reminding ourselves of who He is helps us to trust Him and therefore experience His strength (Deuteronomy 1:1; 28:47-48).
9. Joy - To be exceedingly glad.
10. Excessive gladness should be expressed because:

   1. This is His joy, not ours
   2. God saw the people surrendered to Him, committed to His Word and was sincere in worship. This results in God’s joy.

11. The people chose to trust God rather than fear their enemies.
12. God’s victories reassure us of His power and might.
   1. Strength - This verb carries the concept of taking shelter quickly - Natural and manmade places of safety can be designated by this word such as a mountain (Judges 6:26), harbor (Isaiah 23:4), cities (Isaiah 17:9), and temple (Ezekiel 24:25) - This word can also be used figuratively of human protection - By far the most common use of this word is the figurative one, designating God as the refuge of his people - Place of refuge, i.e., the means of being safe in a situation of danger as a figurative extension of a fortress.
13. The Lord, because of who He has proven Himself to be, drives us to take refuge in Him. Thus, He becomes our fortress.
14. When we learn His strength, it leads to a life of dependence upon Him (Psalm 23).
2. Celebrate God’s Goodness (vs. 11-12):

1. The Levites admonished the people to be silent by holding their peace.
2. They must seek to gain control of themselves by being silent; literally to “hush”.
3. It is the Lord’s Day (Acts 20:7).
4. They should not allow themselves to be so sorrowful that they experience mental and physical anguish rather than come to adore and worship Him with gladness.
5. What the Levites told them to do became their righteous life-style; the way they now lived. They will now live responsibly before God with an upright life-style.
6. The people matured from all that took place. They did not mourn or weep because they functioned in the strength of the Lord as the Levites instructed them.
7. Living in the experience of His overcoming power leads to gladness (Deuteronomy 28:47-48).
8. The people now knew how to distinguish between good and evil because of the knowledge gained from the Word of God being taught. They now had a superior knowledge of the Word.
9. The people matured through this trail because they came to know God better.
10. The people had an intimate relationship with God, which led to a worshipful lifestyle.
11. Made known to them - This means experiential knowledge. By obeying the words taught by their leaders, people came to a day to day experience of understanding the meaning of the Word. This allowed them to be in a complete state knowing right from wrong as they live each day.
12. Their knowledge of God was more than information; it was their day to day experience of God’s power (John 15:1-5).
13. Trusting God leads to knowing God. Knowing God leads to experiencing His strength (1 John 2:3-6; 3:21-22; 5:4, 12).