



DEVOTION: May 21

Refresh Your Faith
DR. KENNETH HEMPHILL

When Nehemiah discovered that his countrymen were in distress and that the wall of Jerusalem was broken down; he sat down, wept, and began to pray (1:4). Prayer is the first step in refreshing one's faith. Prayer reminds us of our own inadequacy and God's awesome power and ability to keep His covenant with His people (1:5).

God called Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem and rally the people to rebuild the wall. Further, He provided the resources for the rebuilding of the wall through a pagan king. When you commit to "*refreshing your faith*," don't be surprised to learn that God is more than sufficient and will provide all the materials you need for rebuilding the spiritual walls in your life.

Nehemiah motivated the people to work amidst constant opposition. When the wall had been completed, Nehemiah called for a time of celebration (Ch. 8). The celebration of God's goodness led to corporate confession of sin and to a binding agreement on the part of the leaders and all the people to refresh their faith (9:38).

To understand the extent of this covenant for "*refreshing*" you should read Chapter 10:28ff. Two keys to refreshing are the desire to separate oneself from the world in terms of belief and values and to commit oneself to obey God's commandments. Israel did not stand alone in their need for rebuilding the wall and refreshing their faith.

We stand in great need of the refreshing of our faith. Here are a few steps we can learn from this book:

- Start with prayer.
- Expect God to provide.
- Persevere in spite of opposition.
- Focus on God's Word.

Separate yourself from the world's values and follow God's.