



Prayer

NEHEMIAH 1

Psalm 127:1 ESV

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it will labor in vain.



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How do you respond when you hear bad news about people you know and care for?

- Pray
- Cry
- Fast
- Mourn

Personal Reflection

- How quickly do you identify with the problems of your friends?



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1 These are the memoirs of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah.

- Nehemiah's Concern for Jerusalem
- In late autumn, in the month of Kislev, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes' reign,^[a] I was at the fortress of Susa. ² Hanani, one of my brothers, came to visit me with some other men who had just arrived from Judah. I asked them about the Jews who had returned there from captivity and about how things were going in Jerusalem.
- ³ They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

- 4 When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.
- 5 Then I said “O LORD, God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps his covenant of unfailing love with those who love him and obey his commands, 6 listen to my prayer! Look down and see me praying night and day for your people Israel. I confess that we have sinned against you. Yes, even my own family and I have sinned! 7 We have sinned terribly by not obeying the commands, decrees, and regulations that you gave us through your servant Moses.

- 8 “Please remember what you told your servant Moses: ‘If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. 9 But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth,^[b] I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored.’

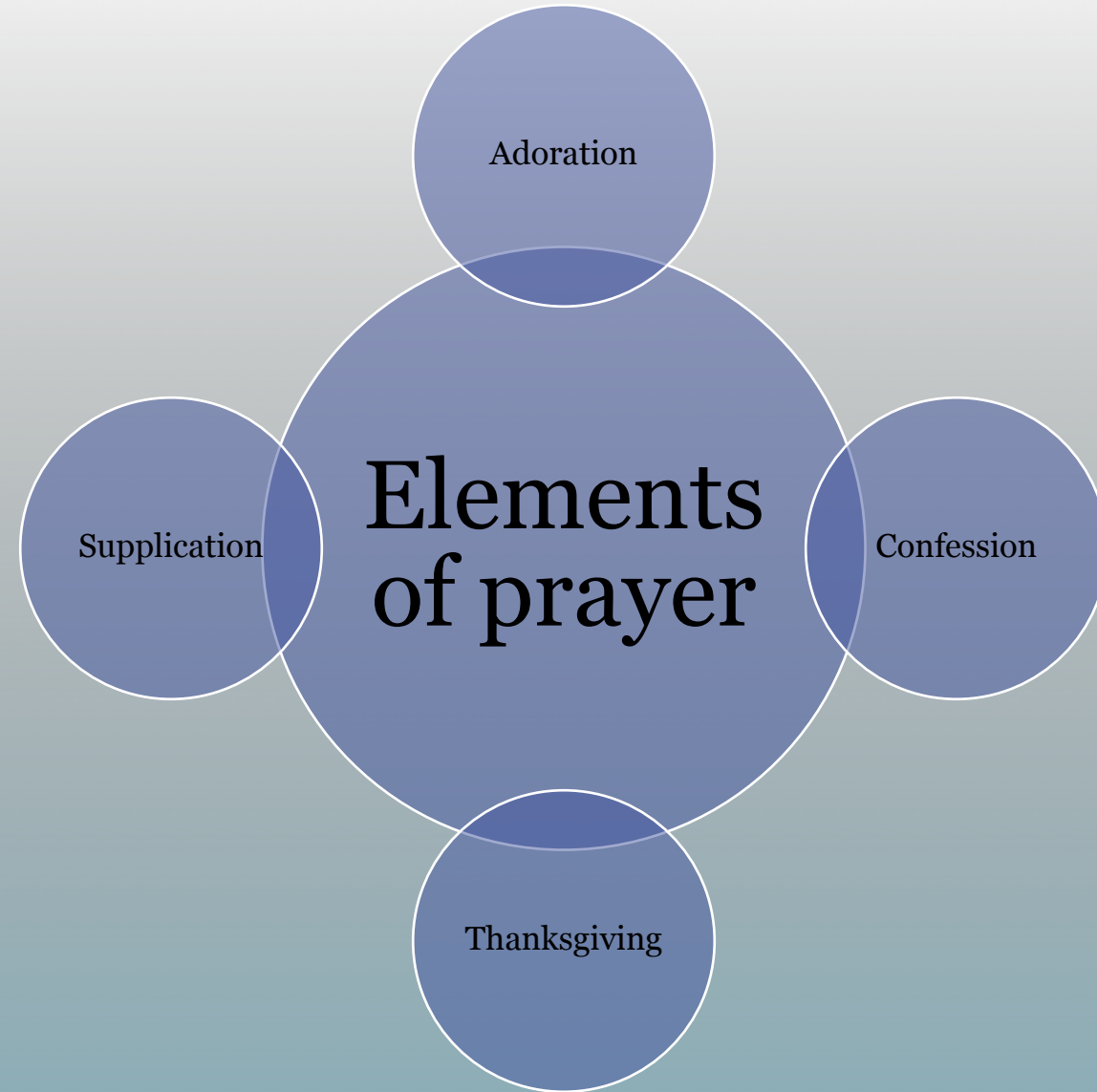
- ¹⁰ “The people you rescued by your great power and strong hand are your servants. ¹¹ O Lord, please hear my prayer! Listen to the prayers of those of us who delight in honoring you. Please grant me success today by making the king favorable to me.^[c] Put it into his heart to be kind to me.”
- In those days I was the king’s cup-bearer.

4 things he does when he hears the news!

- He sat down and wept.
- He mourned for days.
- He began to fast.
- Prayed before the God of heaven.

Specific things he prays for!

- Remember he prays day and night.
 - Confesses **sin**
 - Acted very **corruptly**
 - Have not kept his **commands**



- Are you using these forms of prayer in your prayer life?
- Adoration
- Confession
- Thanksgiving
- Supplication (begging)

