

Friday (continued)

Think back on your past year. What can you celebrate?

*Rejoice in prayer and thank God specifically for what He has done this past year.
Find a godly way to rejoice today!*

Saturday

Look back over your devotions. Please finish any you may have missed. Polish up the memory verse and come to church this weekend ready to celebrate with joy!



Rebuilding My Spiritual Life

JUNE 2 & 3, 2012 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER
NEHEMIAH 8-10

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. *Romans 12:2*

Six indispensable elements of spiritual renewal

1. Get _____ with people

All the people assembled as one in the square before the Water Gate. . . Ezra the priest brought the Law before the **assembly**, which was made up of **men and women** and all who were able to understand. *Nehemiah 8:1,2*

Let us **not give up meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another. . . *Hebrews 10:25*

2. Get _____ God's Word

He read it aloud from daybreak till noon. . . And all the people listened attentively. . . The Levites instructed the people in the Law. . . **making it clear** and **giving the meaning** so that the people could **understand** what was being read. *Nehemiah 8:3,7-8*

3. Get _____ through worship

Ezra **praised the LORD, the great God**; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and **worshipped the LORD**. . . *Nehemiah 8:6*

They. . . read from the Book of the Law. . . for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in **worshipping** the LORD. . . *Nehemiah 9:3*

Standing on the stairs were the Levites. . . who said: "**Stand up and praise** the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting: Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. You alone are the LORD." *Nehemiah 9:4-6*

Time of Worship

4. Get _____ with God

“Because of our **sins** . . . we are in great **distress**.” *Nehemiah 9:37*

Time of Confession & Communion

5. Get _____ about my commitment

“In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement . . .” *Nehemiah 9:38a*

“We assume the **responsibility** for carrying out the **commands** . . .”
Nehemiah 10:32a

“We also assume the responsibility for bringing to the house of the LORD . . . the **firstfruits** . . .” *Nehemiah 10:35*

“We will not neglect **the house of our God**.” *Nehemiah 10:39c*

6. Get _____ to celebrate!

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is sacred to the LORD your God. **Do not mourn or weep.**” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. *Nehemiah 8:9*

Nehemiah said, “**Go and enjoy** choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of **the LORD is your strength.**” *Nehemiah 8:10*

The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a sacred day. **Do not grieve.**” *Nehemiah 8:11*

Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to **celebrate with great joy**, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them. *Nehemiah 8:12*

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again — **rejoice!** *Philippians 4:4 (NLT)*

Time of Commitment & Celebration

Daily Meditations

Monday

Read Nehemiah 8:1–10. Look over your notes from this weekend. What meant the most to you?

Which of the six components of spiritual revival is least present in your life? How can you make a change?

continued 

Today spend time praying through all six components of spiritual revival: Pray for our fellowship at church, ask God for wisdom as you read his Word, and then spend time in worship, confession, commitment, and rejoicing.

Tuesday

Let’s think about confession, one of the components of spiritual revival we see in Nehemiah. Read Psalm 32. What do you learn about confession from this Psalm?

Even 12-step programs talk about the importance of doing a “fearless moral inventory” of myself, and admitting my character flaws to God and others. Why is this so important to spiritual revival? Is this easy or hard for you?

Spend an extended time in prayer now asking God to search your heart and reveal any areas of sin that need to be confessed. Thank God that He is faithful and just to forgive our sins through Christ!

Wednesday

Let’s think about worship, another component of spiritual revival. Read Nehemiah 9:3–6. Why is worship such an important part of my revival? In other words, what makes spiritual revival different from self-improvement?

Read Psalm 99. Spend time worshipping God in prayer — just thanking Him for being holy and creative and just — and any other attributes you find in Scripture you want to praise Him for!

Thursday

Let’s think about commitment, another component of revival. Read Nehemiah 10:28–29, 35–39. Although the precise nature of the commitments these people made to the preservation of their physical temple and culture differ from the commitments God asks of us as Christians, the principles are the same:

1. Obey God’s commands.
2. Bring to God your firstfruits, not your leftovers.
3. Do not neglect the house of God.

How are you doing on these commitments?

Today think seriously about the kind of commitments to God you will make in the three areas mentioned above, then pray to God about those commitments.

Friday

Celebration is another key component of revival. Read Nehemiah 8:9–17. The people were commanded to celebrate! For a whole week the people celebrated the “Feast of Booths” camping out in tents made of shade trees and feasting. Why is celebration such an important part of spiritual growth?



“Do not grieve,
for the joy of the LORD
is your strength.”
Nehemiah 8:10b