

# AN HONEST PRAYER

By Keith Greer

"Please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. "{Nehemiah 1:5,6}

Nehemiah looks at the walls of Jerusalem broken down; the gates burned up, and sat down and wept. He saw the utter reproach that this once holy city had become. Why did it happen? Could it have been avoided? Who is to blame?

In his prayer offered to God, he places the blame where it belonged--on Israel! No excuses, no situation ethics, or blaming others. Plain and simple, they had done it to themselves. God knew it and so did Nehemiah.

How refreshing to see someone stand up and accept the responsibility for their actions. In his prayer to ask God for his mercy and forgiveness, Nehemiah knew that part of the healing was to accept the fact that they had been unfaithful to God's law.

Today, in the world we live in, many difficult situations are facing this country. Let me list just a few:

Abortion, divorce, homes being torn asunder, violent crime on the rise, and lack of morals in general. Where are we headed and why are we heading in this direction?

The "so-called" thinkers of the day give us many reasons: emotionally unstable people; making people feel guilty; guidelines being too strict; judging too harshly to a particular standard. Can this be so? I think not!

Why can't we be honest like Nehemiah? Let us begin to heal and make strides in making this a better world. How? By admitting we are the ones to blame. Our selfish motives, our egos, our quest for "having it my way", has gotten the better of us! We are here because of our actions!

This world can only get better if we understand we are the problem. By "we" I mean those who think they can live by their own rules. These act anyway they desire and accept God, but on their terms, not His. This did not work then, and it will not work today.

Are you concerned for the direction this nation is taking? If so, admit that she has made the decisions which have put her in this difficulty. How do we correct the situation?

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. "{ 1 John 1:9}

"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. "{James 4:6, 7}

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." {Philippians 4:13}

"But Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'" {John 6:68}

We must acknowledge our sin. Accept responsibility. Understand where our true strength is. Submit our lives to God. Humble ourselves in His presence. Knowing that His way is not only the best way but the only way! Why won't we have a heart like Nehemiah? What we need is an "**honest prayer.**" America, are you listening? \*\*\*