

Leading On Your Knees

"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven." Nehemiah 1:4 NIV

EM Bounds wrote in his book Power Through Prayer – "We are constantly on a stretch, if not a strain, to provide new methods, new plans, new organizations to advance the church and secure enlargement and efficiency. But men are God's method. The church is looking for better methods, God is looking for better men."

God said that same thing a long time ago in **Ezekiel 22:30** – "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before Me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none." God eyes are still roaming the earth in search of men and women whose hearts are fully devoted to Him. For it is in human vessels like you and me that He delights to show Himself strong! It is much easier to work for God than it is to depend upon Him. No singular reality reflects more your dependence on GOD than when you kneel to pray. This is where the greatest influence on earth is wielded! This is what brings the sovereign will of God and His Kingdom realities in the sphere of earthly existence. Prayer is God's way of involving us in what He is doing and in what He yet desires to do, both in us and through us!

Nehemiah is admired for his leadership in overseeing both the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, as well as the lives of God's people dwelling in and around those walls. However, let's not forget that it was the initiative of our faithful GOD that this man became involved, and interestingly enough the work began and continued on his knees.

Read Nehemiah 1:1-4, capture the heart of this man as he hears of the devastation. Keep in mind that what the walls were to Jerusalem, so our lives are to God. What is the ruin that lies around you? Have you 'felt' in your soul the agony of heart displayed in Nehemiah?

Is there a consuming fire of prayer in your life?

But let's back up and ask – "Why pray?"

- **It makes you wait...**to learn to place and leave the situations you face with God. Often we run ahead, because many are the plans of man. We want instant results. We hear it all the time..."don't just stand there, do something!" God on the other hand says, "don't just do something, stand there" As Moses once declared, "**stand still and see the salvation of the LORD.**"
- **It clears your vision...**many times we are not sure, things are a bit foggy as many details tend to clutter the landscape of our thinking. Prayer has a way of sweeping clean all but the will of our Father.
- **It quiets your heart...**have you noticed that you can't worry and pray at the same time?
- **It activates your faith...**when you cry out to the Lord in prayer, you are more prone to trust Him, to do what only He can.

Where does prayer really enter in to what you are doing at YFC?

How important do you believe prayer is in seeking to influence your community for Christ?
