A Study of Nehemiah
Part 8 - Nehemiah 7:1 – 8:18

Signs of Spiritual Renewal

1 Peter 1:7 (ESV) so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1. Give back to God generously.

Nehemiah 7:70-72 (ESV)  
Now some of the heads of fathers' houses gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 darics of gold, 50 basins, 30 priests' garments and 500 minas of silver.  
And some of the heads of fathers' houses gave into the treasury of the work 20,000 darics of gold and 2,200 minas of silver.  
And what the rest of the people gave was 20,000 darics of gold, 2,000 minas of silver, and 67 priests' garments.

Matthew 6:21 (ESV) “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

2. Serve in unity with God's people.

Nehemiah 8:1 (ESV) And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel.

Ephesians 4:3 (ESV) eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

3. Listen closely to God's Word.

Nehemiah 8:2-5 (ESV)  
So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month.  
And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand.  
And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.  
And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand.  
And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood.

1 Peter 2:2 (ESV) Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation

Luke 8:21 (ESV) But he answered them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

_Nehemiah 8:6-8 (ESV)_ 6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. 7 Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. 8 They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

_Psalm 122:1 (ESV)_ I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

5. Be broken and confess all sin to God.

_Nehemiah 8:9 (ESV)_ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law.

_Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)_ For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

6. Obey God's Word joyfully.  See Nehemiah 8:10-18

_Psalm 51:13 (ESV)_ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

_Psalm 19:8 (ESV)_ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

_Nehemiah 8:17 (ESV)_ And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths, for from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing.