

# A FRESH START

## Nehemiah 7: 5-73

1. Don't just **FOLLOW** your **HEART** - follow **GOD'S** heart for you! (Jeremiah 17:9; Proverbs 14:12, 16:25; 2 Samuel 24:10; 1 Samuel 13:14; Ezra 1:1,5; Haggai 1:1,13,14; Nehemiah 1:4, 2:12)
2. A **NEW** beginning doesn't mean it will be an **EASY** life. (Matthew 7:13-14, 19:29; Php.3:8; Luke 14:25-33; Luke 9:23; John 16:33; 2 Timothy 3:12)
3. To be **INCLUDED** in the blessings and privileges of the family of God, you have to **BELONG** to the family of God. (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:19; Philippians 3:20; 1 John 3:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 1:13)
4. Generous **GIVING** contributes to the **ONGOING** work. (Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Acts 20:35; Matthew 6:19-21; Galatians 6:10; 1 Peter 4:10; Proverbs 3:9-10)
5. Every **NAME** and **NUMBER** and **PLACE** matters to God! (verses 6,73; Jeremiah 29:7; Psalm 133:1, 139:13-16; Matthew 6:25-34, 10:30; Luke 12:6-7; 1 Corinthians 12:14; Matthew 9:35; Luke 10:1, 14:23; Matthew 28:19)



## Taking it further to help you **THRIVE...**

THRIVE Groups are where life and growth take place. We don't want to just say "See you next week" as we leave each Sunday - we want to connect!  
For more info on joining a THRIVE Group, visit [thrivekg.org/thrive-groups](http://thrivekg.org/thrive-groups).

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. How can I know if a burden/desire that is on my heart is from ME or from GOD? Does it matter? Why?
3. For many who returned to Jerusalem, it would have been like a pioneering expedition. They left everything they knew in Persia for a 900 mile journey to what would have been for them a brand new land. (Let's not forget that God had stirred their hearts to go, Ezra 1:5.) What makes us hesitant to change? Resistant to diving into something new, even if God is stirring us to do it? What can happen if we fail to step out?
4. There were individuals (including priests) whose names were not found registered. They could not prove they belonged to Israel and were therefore excluded from privileges. Why were they excluded? What are the parallels between this and the Church / Body of Christ / Family of God / true Christianity?
5. In verses 70-72 we read about the gifts that were given "to the work", the ongoing work of rebuilding Jerusalem. In what ways can we "give to the work" that God is doing through THRIVE Christian Fellowship? (Think outside the box.) In what ways might our perspectives need to change to make us more willing givers?