

RESTORATION: THE PROMISE AND THE (UN)WINDING ROAD

God’s promise of restoration inspires us to navigate the (un)winding road back to our calling.

KEY POINTS

❖ Fatherhood is a long and winding road that is rarely well anticipated at the beginning. All fathers need the *inspiration*, based upon God’s *promise*, to successfully complete their *navigation*.

INSPIRATION: Your *inspiration* is located in knowing where you stand and where you want to go.

❖ Nehemiah was a descendant of the Jews who were taken into exile by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. Though he was born in exile and was a next generation immigrant, his heart longed to be in Jerusalem where the presence of the Lord once dwelt.

❖ The Jews understood that a place without the presence of God was just another place. Nehemiah wanted Israel to go to a place of acceptance by the Creator and sustainer of everything (Nehemiah 1:5). Knowing where he wants to be, Nehemiah is inspired to go there by using prayer—God’s language—to diligently seek His attention.

❖ Inspiration brings energized, consistent focus. Nehemiah’s prayer is not a “one off”; it was a continual petitioning mimicking the incense that used to burn before the Lord in His Holy Place. Nehemiah wants God to hear *him*, but the content of the prayer is about God’s *people* Israel.

❖ Together with the nation, Nehemiah and his family had violated their part in receiving the covenant promises (see Deuteronomy 28) and were now outside the presence of God. Nehemiah’s inspiration was located in knowing where he stood and where he wanted to go.

❖ Fathers need inspiration at various points along life’s journey. Most want to be in control, but life quickly dictates that this is never fully realistic. God sees and knows everything. When you trust Him where you are, He’ll open your eyes to where you *can* be and will inspire you.

PROMISE: Your energy and will to move comes from God’s *promise* of restoration.

❖ God had been crystal clear in His covenantal promise: He would not share His glory with another (see Isaiah 42:8). When Israel sought an alternative, it was an automatic choice to depart from God’s presence. Rejecting their part in the covenant identified them with the heathen nations.

❖ “But if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name” (Neh. 1:9).

❖ If Israel recognized where they were and went back to being what the covenant called them to be, they would be restored to alignment with eternal reality and would be a return to their physical place as the light to the nations. It was this promise of restoration that Nehemiah reminded God about (Neh. 1:10).

❖ The Bible calls fathers the leaders of their homes (Ephesians 5:23). In moments of decision making, fathers may forget who they are and the past crises they’ve successfully navigated and instead focus on the negative things that brought them to a particular state. How you think matters in these moments.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 1:5-11
(all scriptures are NIV unless otherwise noted)

❖ Intentionally remember where you have come from but also look to the promise of restoration. Progress comes from taking the next step.

NAVIGATION: Your road back to your calling is a winding one, but God grants success in unwinding it.

❖ “Lord, let your ear be attentive...” (Neh. 5:11). Nehemiah’s appeal is for God to pay attention to his prayer. He wasn’t alone in this prayer because he speaks of being in concert with others who are thrilled to exalt God’s name and character, just as the covenant required.

❖ Nehemiah doesn’t describe himself as one of the rebels who were taken into exile, even though that is his current identity. Rather, he describes himself as one who serves God—a keeper of the covenant. That’s a faith statement.

❖ The winding path between where he was and where he wanted to be still needed unwinding, so Nehemiah started right where he was. As he was “cupbearer to the king” (v. 11), he first had to get unwound from his commitment to the heathen king.

❖ His position was a strategic one, with the unfolding story revealing that very few other positions of access would have given him the authority he needed to go and rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and restore the covenant practices that would once again reflect God’s identity through Israel. He could get back to the presence of God, but the winding road would take some unwinding.

❖ With God, nothing is random. We may not exactly know what supernatural purpose the winding road will accomplish, but we can be certain that that journey is going to unwind some impediment that may be on the path to our God-given destiny.

❖ Fathers, don’t be afraid to take on and to work with the difficulty you’re facing. As God silently leads you and you continue to follow, hold on to His guarantee: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you” (Is. 43:2). God’s promise of restoration inspires us to navigate the (un)winding road back to our calling.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Nehemiah’s circumstance is an example of the dichotomy of where he was (in exile) and where he wanted to be (in Jerusalem where God’s presence dwelt). Consider at least two other biblical figures who were in a similar position and discuss where they were versus where they wanted to be. Was their initial destination the same as God’s calling? If not, how did the two eventually become aligned? What needed to be “unwound” in their circumstance?
2. Are there things that need to be “unwound” in your life? Recall God’s promises (e.g., Is. 43:2); say them out loud.

PRAYER TIME

“This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.... Great is thy faithfulness!” (Lamentations 3:21, 23)

Start-up: When you are all wound up, what are things you do to unwind?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2026

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)
- 💡 (New idea)
- 🗨️ (Think about)
- 👉 (Do this)
- ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)
- 🔄 (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

PRAYER FOCUS: Revelation of the divinity of Jesus Christ to religious non-Christians.

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;

Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)

Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give

For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com



YOUTH WEEKEND

Come out and be blessed!

Dates: Friday, June 26th @ 7:00 p.m. &

Sunday, June 28th @ 11:00 a.m.

Location: Main Sanctuary

Contacts: Pastor Dan Peel, Sis. Naomi Kovach, or Sis. Shayanne Solomon

FAITH SANCTUARY CHOIR

We're calling on all singers to join the Faith Sanctuary Choir! Those interested, please contact Bro. Rohan Morgan or Pastor Dan Peel.

Graphic for "JOIN A MINISTRY TEAM" featuring puzzle pieces and QR codes. The text "Faith" is at the top. Below it, "JOIN A MINISTRY TEAM" is written in large letters. The background is a pattern of puzzle pieces. At the bottom, there are three QR codes with labels: "JOIN HERE", "CHECK OUT OUR VACANCIES HERE", and "LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR MINISTRIES HERE".

FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.
(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.
(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled
(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JUNE 21, 2026

Faith **SANCTUARY**

Feed Canada to Feed the World

Reaching the World Through Prayer

~ 2026 ~

Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

"Then I said: 'Lord, the God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night....'"
Nehemiah 1:5-6 (NIV)

1901 Jane St., Toronto, Ontario M9N 3T9
Phone: 416-244-4898
Email: mail@faithsanctuary.com
Website: www.faithsanctuary.com
Livestream: <https://faithsanctuarytoronto.online.church>