

**Introduction:**

Nehemiah lived and worked in the expectation of Christ's coming.  
The rebuilding of the temple and the walls of Jerusalem was not the end of the story.  
The OT ends with great expectation: Come, Lord Jesus.

**1. Nehemiah seeks his comfort in God;**

Nehemiah: cupbearer: high position.  
God put him there for His purpose, just like Daniel and Esther  
God uses His people to influence the world, change hearts of rulers.

Situation for Israel was hopeless: Jerusalem still in ruins, 100 year after return.  
Nehemiah prays! He is not an activist, but depends on God.  
Prayer is important for church builders!

Nehemiah reminds God of His promises: Yahweh.  
God promised to bring His people back if they pray to Him.  
Nehemiah waits for the fulfillment: four months of waiting!

**2. Nehemiah confesses his sinfulness before God;**

Nehemiah includes himself in his confession of the sins of his people.  
God uses sinful people.  
But they must know their position: humility.

Humility can prevent a lot of problems, arguments.  
All must submit to God, give up own pride.  
The Holy Spirit uses those who are contrite and let themselves be used.

**3. Nehemiah receives his strength from God.**

Remembering God's promises gives Nehemiah confidence to pray.  
Gives him also confidence to speak before the mighty king.  
God creates the opportunity and Nehemiah recognizes it and uses it.

Nehemiah asks the king to change his previous decision (see Ezra 4)!  
Dangerous situation for Nehemiah!  
Nehemiah depends on God: through prayer.

Nehemiah is a great church builder.  
He did not depend on own power or wisdom.  
In weakness God's power is made perfect.

**Questions:**

1. How does the book of Nehemiah fit in the history of salvation?
2. By our attitude we can either build or destroy the church. How must our attitude be?
3. Nehemiah showed great leadership and God blessed it. Show from chapter 1 what is important to be able to be a good leader.
4. Why do we not need to fear and can we speak boldly if we speak up before governments?