

Message: ***"Prayer That God Answers"***

Scripture: Nehemiah 2
(09-14-25 Pastor Tony Hao)

Some time ago a young person confessed: "I stopped praying." When asked why, he said: "It doesn't feel like God answers my prayers. Why pray?" Do you feel same way? What prayers do God answer anyway?

In Nehemiah's prayer life, we learn: First, God answers prayer that WAITS for His timing (2:1-3). When we wait on the Lord, we are not wasting your time; we are investing it. God is preparing both us and our circumstances so that His purposes will be accomplished. Second, God answers prayer that SEEKS His Help (2:4-10). We need to acknowledge our true condition. We are weak and sinful, flawed and needy. That's why we need God who is strong and gracious, good and ready to help. Finally, God answers prayer that JOINS His Work (2:11-20). God had already proved His power by working in the heart of the king. God's people simply step out by faith to join Him.

Nehemiah was confident that God would answer his prayer because rebuilding the wall was God's work, and the Jews were God's servants. As Psalm 37:4 reminds us, *"Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."*

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. In the intervening three months (between chapters 1 and 2), what do you think Nehemiah has been doing? Why do you think it took Nehemiah so long?
2. In Nehemiah's ready response to the king's inquiry, what do you see that demonstrates his practical wisdom? his dependence on God?
3. How did Nehemiah rally the people to rebuild? Which one of his points do you find most convincing?
4. What aspect of Nehemiah's prayer life do you need to emulate and develop? What specific application do you need to do be a person of faith?