

"Not On Bread Alone"

Scripture: Nehemiah 8
(01-04-26 Pastor Tony Hao)

Nehemiah 8 begins with the people gathering as one in the square. Ezra the scribe brings out the Book of the Law of Moses. The Word was read publicly. Men, women, and all who could understand were present. They listened attentively for hours. This was a hunger for truth.

If God's Word is not central in our lives: Our faith becomes shallow. Our worship becomes emotional only. Our obedience becomes optional. You can rebuild walls and schedules—but without the Word, nothing lasts.

As the people understood the Word, they began to weep. Why? Because God's Word: Exposed their sin; Revealed how far they had drifted; Showed them God's holiness. This is what the Word does. God's Word comforts the afflicted—but it also afflicts the comfortable. Conviction draws us toward God, not away from Him. Remember:

No life is complete without the spiritual dimension.

No spiritual dimension is complete without scriptural input.

No scriptural input is complete without personal obedience.

No personal obedience is complete without great rejoicing.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. What place does God's Word actually have in my weekly schedule? Do I seek Scripture when I'm confused—or only when I'm desperate? If someone looked at my life, would they say the Bible is central or optional?
2. Do we approach Scripture casually—or reverently? Do we open the Bible to be comforted—or corrected? How does my posture (physical or spiritual) reflect my view of God's Word? Do I treat the Bible with the same seriousness I give to important voices in my life?
3. What is the goal of God's Word in the lives of His people? What is the reaction by those reminded that God is not finished with them? Notice true joy is born when God's Word is understood and obeyed. Not shallow happiness. Not temporary emotion. But deep, sustaining joy.