

**Put God First
(Read His Word)
Part 15**

⁴ all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. ² So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. ³ He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. ⁴ Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiyah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam. ⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁷ The Levites--Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah--instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. ⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." ¹¹ The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a sacred day. Do not grieve." ¹² Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them." (Nehemiah 8:1-12)

In the above chosen passage from the book of Nehemiah, the people of God after they returned from exiles and after they settled they gave a priority to the word of God. The same should be for you; God's word has a real impact and importance in your life because it brings to you God's thoughts and His good plans and will in your life. Therefore when God's word had a priority and the first place in your life, heart and mind, then you can find God's presence profound in your life. Therefore put God first in your life by honouring His word as you observe the following:

1- Bring out or bring the bible: *"all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel." (Nehemiah 8:1)* Everywhere you go or move you need to bring the bible with you so you can bring out and read it whenever God is leading you or The Holy Spirit reminding you to read. *"So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand." (Nehemiah 8:2)*

2- Take the initiative and come and ask for Bible study: *"all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel." (Nehemiah 8:1)* The people themselves asked Ezra to bring out the word of God and read to them and explain to them God's Message. You must have the inner and the deep desire to know more of God and His word.

3- Open the Bible: *"Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up." (Nehemiah 8:5)* You might be always busy opening and checking your mobile or your email box if you have new messages. But really you need to learn to open your bible frequently and read His word and promises that can strengthen you and encourage you in times of grieve and can build you up. The word of God has power and authority and a real impact into the people lives, Therefore Ezra *as he opened it, the people all stood up.* The people stood up when Ezra opened the bible in honour to God because the bible contains treasures and these treasure are the precious promises of God.

4- Read the bible: *"He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law." (Nehemiah 8:3)* Ezra read the bible from daybreak till noon. Therefore read the bible, and read the bible frequently and give good and adequate time to read the bible. Ezra read the bible *in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand* (the children). Therefore read the bible not only for yourself but for the others who are around you. Get the opportunity to do that and read it frequently with the people around you. *"Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching." (1Timothy 4:13)* Be the Timothy of Paul and devote yourself to read the Scripture publicly and teach and preach His word. Also do not neglect your family, but daily keep a time with all your family members to read the bible and to preach and teach His word to your children and the rest of your family members.

5- Listen attentively to the word of God: *"He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law." (Nehemiah 8:3)* When someone reading the bible you need to listen attentively to God's word and to meditate on His word so you can understand and apply in your life to be blessed as you obey his word.

6- Honour the word of God: *"Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion." (Nehemiah 8:4a)* The meaning of that is the following: The word of God should have the highest place in our lives and in the life of the church. The word of God should be above each and every personnel.

7- Explain the meaning of God's word: *⁷ The Levites--Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah--instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read." (Nehemiah 8:7-8)* There must be adequate explanation so that there will be application for God's word. When you read and understand the word of God, that will bring you to repentance and repentance will bring you into reconciliation with God and will reveal to you the good plans of God and His good pleasant and perfect will in your life. And the time that you dedicate to read and study the word of God will end up with joy, revival and clear goals God will set before you to achieve. When you start to read you might be sad and grieving but will end up with joy and gladness and fullness to go forward to share with others and refresh them with the good things that you receive.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to give a real priority to bring my bible with me wherever I move and to open it frequently and read and meditate on your word. Lord I commit myself to read the word of God with my family and to share reading it with the people around me. Give me strength and the perseverance and the consistency in doing that. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*