



Nehemiah: The Cupbearer

“⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2: 8-10 (ESV)

How do we know what He wants us to do?

“¹ The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the citadel,² that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem.³ And they said to me, ‘The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.’⁴ As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days...” Nehemiah 1:1-4 (ESV)

Hearing God in the **large**.

What breaks your heart?

Hearing God in the **little**.

Weird - involving or suggesting the supernatural or unearthly.

“²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.” Galatians 5:22-25 (ESV)

“Don't imagine us leaders to be something we aren't. We are servants of Christ, not his masters. We are guides into God's most sublime secrets, not security guards posted to protect them.” 1 Corinthians 4:1 (The Message)

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” Deuteronomy 29:29 (ESV)

Small Group Questions

1. When Nehemiah heard the news of the condition of the walls in Jerusalem he sat down and wept. Is there a particular topic or cause that always seems to tug at or break your heart? Could it be of God? If you are willing, please share with the group.
2. Have you ever had an experience or something happen to you that was very difficult to explain. Maybe you dismissed it as coincidence or chance. Do you believe God is attempting to speak to us in the everyday, ordinary things?
3. Based on the definition of weird on the flip side of this outline, have you ever felt prompted to do something 'weird'? (I am not talking about a dare from your college roommate!)
4. Is it possible to be 'in step with the Spirit'? What do you think hinders that from happening?