

Spiritual Composure

Nehemiah 2:4

INTRODUCTION:

1. With a sad countenance in the presence of the king, Nehemiah was “very much afraid” (2:2).
2. Yet, he calmly answered the king.
3. Here is a remarkable illustration of religious presence of mind.

DISCUSSION: A calm and confident prayer in the midst of a challenge is...

I. The outcome of a consecrated life.

- A. The devotion which permeated Nehemiah’s life expressed itself.
- B. His relationship with God allowed him to collect himself while trembling with excitement, fear, and suspense before the king.
- C. If one lives in the spirit of prayer, a sudden emergency will spontaneously summon the familiar to his aid.
- D. To “live on one’s knees” is to live safely.

II. The result of a long habit.

- A. Repeated action becomes a habit.
- B. Unless Nehemiah had been in the habit of making everything a matter of prayer, he might not have been able to control himself.
- C. Having formed the habit of doing nothing without consulting God, he had no difficulty acting upon it.

III. The mark of humility.

- A. He dared not make a request of the king without seeking wisdom higher than his own.
- B. To the saints Peter said, “...conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile” (1 Pet. 1:17).

IV. The source of blessings.

- A. Confidence (Isa. 26:3)
- B. Accomplishment (James 5:16)

CONCLUSION:

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
2. James 4:10