

GOD'S TRANSFORMING WORD | NEHEMIAH 8:1-18

God uses His Word powerfully to transform the lives of His people. Chapter seven marked a transition in the book of Nehemiah. The wall was complete, and the gates were installed, but God wanted to rebuild His people. A priest named Ezra arrived in Jerusalem over a dozen years before Nehemiah. Ezra was described as a man who set his heart to study the Law of God, do it, and teach it in Israel. Ezra's faithfulness prepared the people for Nehemiah's building project. Nehemiah's building project propelled the people to receive Ezra's teaching of the Word. God always uses His Word to transform His people. What must we do if we desire to be a transformed people?

1. We must be unified in our acknowledgement that we need God (1).
2. We must have a strong desire for the Word of God (1-4).
3. We must have great respect for the Word of God (5-8).
4. We must recognize that God's Word is a source of conviction and joyfulness (9-12).
5. We must respond to conviction and joy with bold obedience (13-18).