

Revival and Rejoicing

Joy is not the absence of suffering, but the presence of God!

Features of a Successful Worship Service

1. Their hearts were spiritually sensitive.

*"The total given by the rest of the people was 20,000 darics of gold, 2,000 minas of silver and 67 garments for priests. The priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the musicians and the temple servants, along with certain of the people and the rest of the Israelites, settled in their own towns. When **the seventh month came....**"*

- Nehemiah 7:72-73

2. The people were unified.

*"When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, **all the people came together as one** in the square before the Water Gate."* - Nehemiah 8:1

3. Their purpose for meeting was to hear God's Word.

"They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel." - Nehemiah 8:1

4. The families worshipped together.

*"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. ³He 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 8:2,3

5. The service lasted six hours.

*"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

6. There was reverence for the Scripture.

*"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

7. There was much praise.

"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." - Nehemiah 8:6

A Great Worship Service Includes:

1. Anticipation (v. 1)

2. Participation (v. 6)

3. Application (v. 12)

8. They understood God's Word.

*"They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that **the people understood** what was being read."* - Nehemiah 8:8

9. They felt remorse for their sin.

*"Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, 'This day is holy 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."* - Nehemiah 8:9

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." - Hebrews 4:12

10. They were rejoicing in God, not the wall, horses, chariots, etc.

*"Nehemiah said, 'Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for **the joy of the Lord is your strength.**'" ¹¹The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve." ¹²Then 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 8:10-12

JOY - Let "J" represent Jesus

Let "O" represent Nothing

Let "Y" represent You

The result is Joy - Nothing between Jesus and You!

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