

God guides us and protects us night and day, before, during, and after our sin. God’s good Spirit comes to offer us instruction and encouragement. The spirit appears today in our congregational leaders and fellow members, our friends and our relatives, and in all those who love us enough to tell us the truth of the faith. Hunger and thirst according to this prayer in Nehemiah 9 were satisfied before, during, and, most important, after sinning. Even after sinning, Israel, like the psalmist, lacked nothing (9:21; cf. Ps. 23:1). In addition to daily bread in the wilderness, then, God provided clothes that never wore out and ankles that never swelled. Divine beneficence after sinning was more lavish than before. The history of sinning is not just a history of a fallen world somewhere out there or a roll call of notorious sinners. It is not that our parents erred and we are paying the consequences. No, according to chapter 9, the history of sinning is our history; we did wrong—despite God’s faithful actions. What moves God to act? Is it our praise, God’s character, God’s promises? “You are the Lord, you alone” is the way the poem begins in 9:6. But the poem ends with “we” - we the slaves, we the exploited, we who are in great distress (9:36-27). Is not God moved by pity for us? You, God, are one half of the issue. We are the other half. You and us—in that connection lies our only hope. — The New Interpreter’s Bible Commentary

MY RESPONSE:
Jim reminded us in his message that God PERSISTS, He GUIDES, He PROVIDES, & He FORGIVES. Which of these do you need most from Him today? Explain.

Describe one step you can take this week to lean into trusting that God can/will meet the need you described above.



He _____
Nehemiah 9:1-8; 1 Thess. 5:23-24;

He _____
John 16:13

He _____
2 Peter 1:3-4

He _____
Ephesians 1:7-10

TIME WITH GOD: If you don't currently have a Bible reading plan, you can download "Our Time with God" at spcc.tv/resources

REFLECTIONS: Whether you're using SPCC's reading plan or a different one, think about your time hearing and responding to Jesus this week. In your conversations with Him, describe one thing you felt Him speaking to you about.

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION: What stood out to you in Jim's message this weekend? Did you have any questions?

What is the character of God? God is covenant maker and therefore promises whatever God's people need for wholeness of life...God also is covenant keeper. For many God's awesomeness is manifested in the reversals of life and the mysteries of judgment. And yet the One to whom we pray for forgiveness is great, mighty, and awesome and, at the same time, the One who keeps covenant and steadfast love. Are not the latter virtues the surest signs of God's almighty power? - The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary

MY PERSPECTIVE: As a child, describe a time you felt conviction over doing something wrong and had to choose whether to confess or not.

DIGGING DEEPER: Read the following verses: Nehemiah 9:1-3; Daniel 9:3-10; 1 John 1:7-9. Describe some essential aspects of genuine confession and repentance .

Read Nehemiah 9:6-38. What two aspects of God's character stand out most in this passage? Explain.

