

**“How To Build Faith: God’s Sword”**  
**Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-18 \* March 14, 2010**

I. What did the Catholic Church teach about the Bible back in John Bunyan’s day (17<sup>th</sup> century England)?

How were things similar to this in Nehemiah’s time?

All great revivals throughout history begin with God’s \_\_\_\_\_ reconnecting with God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

**LESSONS ABOUT GOD’S WORD FROM NEHEMIAH 8**

I. The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ and penned by \_\_\_\_\_.

A. What human qualities do we see in the Bible?

B. What divine qualities do we see in the Bible?

1. Its \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Its \_\_\_\_\_ stamp.
3. Its consistent \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ message.
4. There is spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ in it.

C. We also believe that the divine part of the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ the human part of the Bible. Why is this important to know?

II. The Word of God is for \_\_\_\_\_.

A. What happens in the story that blows away the Catholic idea that the Bible should be left to the professionals?

B. If the Word of God is for me, then what does that mean?

III. If I want God to speak to me through the Bible then there are \_\_\_\_\_ ways I should \_\_\_\_\_ it.

A. I should read the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Prov.2:4-5 tells me I will find the knowledge of God if I search for it as for \_\_\_\_\_.

2. A piece of advice:

B. I should read the Bible reverently and \_\_\_\_\_.

1. What do some people today do if they hear that Bibles will be given out or read from?

2. A piece of advice:

C. I should learn the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ not only of reading – but \_\_\_\_\_ – the Bible.

1. What’s the difference between the two?

2. A piece of advice:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - What do I \_\_\_\_\_?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - What does it \_\_\_\_\_?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ - What do I \_\_\_\_\_ about it?

D. I should read the Bible with an \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ heart.

1. Why did the Jews weep?

2. What did they do next?

3. A piece of advice:

E. I should read the Bible \_\_\_\_\_.

1. A piece of advice:

- a. Pick a \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Pick a \_\_\_\_\_.

**“How To Build Faith: God’s Sword”**  
**Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-18 \* March 14, 2010**

I. What did the Catholic Church teach about the Bible back in John Bunyan’s day (17<sup>th</sup> century England)?

**That laymen and common Christians should not read it. It began in the hand of the professionals.**

How were things similar to this in Nehemiah’s time?

**The common people did not have access to God’s Word.**

All great revivals throughout history begin with God’s people reconnecting with God’s Word.

**LESSONS ABOUT GOD’S WORD FROM NEHEMIAH 8**

I. The Bible is inspired by God and penned by humans.

A. What human qualities do we see in the Bible?

**We get the author’s point of view, his vocabulary, his use of grammar, his recollections, etc.**

B. What divine qualities do we see in the Bible?

1. Its truthfulness and accuracy.
2. Its prophetic stamp.
3. Its consistent ethical and moral message.
4. There is spiritual power in it.

C. We also believe that the divine part of the Bible governs the human part of the Bible. Why is this important to know?

**If we simply say there is a human part and a divine part to the Bible, then we can start cutting out things we read that we don’t agree with as being from “the human part”. But if everything in the Bible is there because God wanted it there, then we must submit to it all. Truly then we can say that “All Scripture is God-breathed...” (2 Tim.3:16)**

II. The Word of God is for everyone.

A. What happens in the story that blows away the Catholic idea that the Bible should be left to the professionals?

**All the Jews – the men, women and those who could understand (old children) – gathered in the city square to hear God’s Word read.**

B. If the Word of God is for me, then what does that mean?

**That God wants to have a relationship with me. He has revealed to me his thoughts, dreams, plans, and character and now invites me to share my life with him.**

III. If I want God to speak to me through the Bible then there are certain ways I should read it.

A. I should read the Bible attentively.

1. Prov.2:4-5 tells me I will find the knowledge of God if I search for it as for hidden treasure.

2. A piece of advice:

**Keep a Bible notebook or journal in which to write down the things I am learning and hearing from my times with God.**

B. I should read the Bible reverently and worshipfully.

1. What do some people today do if they hear that Bibles will be given out or read from?

**They will walk for miles, even over several days, just to get access to God’s Word.**

2. A piece of advice:

**Take a moment to pray to God and thank him before I actually read. A good example of such a prayer is Psalm 119:18 – “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.”**

C. I should learn the tools and techniques not only of reading – but studying – the Bible.

1. What's the difference between the two?

**Reading is like picking up loose diamonds on the ground. Studying is like taking a shovel and digging into the soil to get at the mother lode beneath the surface.**

2. A piece of advice:

**Use this 3-step Bible study method:**

1. Observation - What do I see?

2. Interpretation - What does it mean?

3. Application - What do I do about it?

D. I should read the Bible with an open and obedient heart.

1. Why did the Jews weep?

**They were hearing – probably for the first time – how God warned Israel centuries before that they would be sent into exile if they turned from God. But he also promised to bring them back to their land after they repented. They realized that God's Word was true, and that he was with them.**

2. What did they do next?

**Reading about how old Israel kept the “Festival of Booths”, they wanted to do it also. It showed they had obedient hearts.**

3. A piece of advice:

**Whenever I read the Bible, examine my heart, for the Bible is like a mirror. It is meant to reveal and expose what's going on inside of me.**

E. I should read the Bible daily.

1. A piece of advice:

a. Pick a time.

b. Pick a book (of the Bible).