

Day 8

# When Burden And Passion Collide!

When I heard these words, I sat down and wept  
and mourned for days; and I was fasting  
and praying before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 1:4 (NASB)

## Observation

Have you ever been desperate to find the answer to a problem? Most people have been there a time or two. Maybe it was a job transition that you needed God to speak to you about. Whatever the situation, you had a burden that you needed an answer from God about. This is the place where Nehemiah found himself. He needed God to do for him what he could not do for himself. When his passion and his burden collided, it led him to not only pray but to fast.

There is something powerful about fasting that can bring clarity and favor to a situation. Fasting is simply giving up something to gain more of God. It may be food, gaming, news, television, internet, or social media. Whatever it is, the idea is to clear out things that have your attention and refocus on God. Maybe God will lead you in this time to sacrifice some personal comfort to hear from Him. As believers, many times we must give

up something to go up in God. Nehemiah understood this. He was going to put **all** his passion into hearing from God, so he could make a real difference in people's lives.

## **Application**

Consider giving up something in order to spend more time with God to hear from Him. Use the time you gain to spend time with God praying and meditating on His Word. Write down your fasting commitment next to the four names you started to pray over on Day 2. Over the next week take time to sacrifice your regular routine to hear from God about your role in the Open: Next Chapter journey.