**Messages Series: Building the Kingdom Together**

**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. September 18, 2016**

**It All Starts With Prayer**

Nehemiah 1:1-11

Key truth: Prayer is the key that unlocks doors.

**The Background**: 2 Chronicles 36:11-23

1. Judah’s rebellion led to God’s discipline and destruction.

2. Even in God’s discipline His grace is present.

3. God is all-powerful and no one is beyond His sovereign control.

**Laying the Foundation:**

1. We must have a deep concern for the spiritual walls in our lives and others.

2. Our first response is to go to God in prayer.

A. He praised God.

B. He confessed his sins.

C. He claimed the promises of God.

1. His Provision – Matthew 6:32-33

2. His Protection – Psalm 23

3. His Power – Acts 1:8

4. His Presence – Matthew 28

D. He was very specific in what he wanted God to do.

3. You must be available to meet the need.

**Conclusion**: Make prayer a daily habit in your life.

**Connection Group Study Questions**

**Quick Review:** Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. If we are going to experience a move of God in our lives it want happen without prayer. In Nehemiah’s prayer what stood out to you?

2. Read Matthew 21:12-13. Jesus expects his church to be characterized by prayer. On a scale from 1-10, how would you rate your prayer life? What is one area you could get better in regarding prayer?

3. Read Mark 9:14-28: Prayer demonstrates our dependence on God’s divine power and provision to do the impossible. Prayerlessness demonstrates the opposite. Do you think the disciples were depending on their strength to cast out the demons or God?

4. Dr. Tim Keller states “We pray well when we are immersed in the Scriptures”. Why is having a strong grasp of Scripture important in the life of disciple?

5. Read John 15:7: What does abiding in God’s word look like in the life of a disciple? How does it inform our prayers?

6. What is one thing that you are praying about or would like us to pray for? What does God’s word say about that issue?