

# *Confession and Revival*

**Nehemiah 9:1-38**

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- Revival involves the proclamation of God's Word and the mobilization of God's people.
- Survey of revivals in recent history
- Revival breaks out in 4<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. Jerusalem with the proclamation of God's Word
- Revival deepens with the confession of sin! No true revival until we deal with the underlying sin that pulls us away from God.

## *Confession and Revival*

### **A. The Service of Confession**

1. Spontaneous—not a scheduled Holy Day
2. Solemn—a fast with sackcloth and ashes

### **B. The Sequence of Confession**

1. They confessed their own sins and the wickedness of their fathers.
  - a. Conviction of sin comes through hearing God's Word.
  - b. *"Confession"* means to *"agree"* with God.
  - c. Confession of their ancestors' sins—solidarity
  - d. Our sin has a widespread impact
  - e. What happens when we confess our sins?—1 John 1:9
    - 1) God forgives! Psalm 32:3-5
    - 2) God cleanses! Psalm 51:7-12
2. They had a greater hunger for God's Word—Nehemiah 9:3
  - a. Certain sins suppress our appetite—1 Peter 2:1-3
  - b. Need for humility—James 1:21
3. They discovered more sin to confess—Nehemiah 9:3
  - a. God, in His mercy, does not reveal to us everything we have done wrong all at once, but progressively.
  - b. Progressive sanctification and transformation—2 Corinthians 3:14-18
  - c. Cycle: Confession-> God's Word-> Confession-> God's Word
4. They worshiped God—Nehemiah 9:4
  - a. Focus changed from themselves to God
  - b. Model prayer by the Levites—Nehemiah 9:5-38
    - 1) The GREATNESS of God—vv. 4-6
    - 2) The GOODNESS of God—vv. 7-31
    - 3) The GRACE of God—vv. 32-38