

Friday, September 18, 2026
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Essential Truth: *Sacred Assembly moves God's people from hearing the truth to confessing sin and worshipping Him.*

Scripture: Nehemiah 9:1-3

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. ² And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. ³ And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the Lord their God.

Observations:

Throughout this past week, we have seen the children of Israel come before the Lord in assembly while Ezra reads from the book of the law. Through the hearing of the law, the Holy Spirit convicts the assembly of their transgressions. In our devotional today we will focus on three aspects of the Scripture Reading of Nehemiah 9:1-3. These are Honesty, Humility, and Honor.

Application:

- **Honesty:** As a body of believers, it is essential that we are honest with ourselves as to our guilt before a Holy and Righteous God. This will occur only with the daily reading of the Scriptures and a desire to know Him through the movement of the Holy Spirit within our hearts.
- **Humility:** From an honest evaluation of our hearts, we are moved to a posture of humility, leading to repentance which brings us into a righteous relationship with our God. (1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.") As the psalmist David confessed in Psalm 51:4, "Against You, You only, have I sinned..." David realized what every believer must - that although we sin greatly against others, our greatest sin is against a Holy God and His Word.
- **Honor:** Following honesty, humility, and the confession of our sins, our hearts have a desire to honor and worship God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Most Gracious and Holy God, Sovereign in all things, we come before You with repentant hearts, realizing that it is only in the righteousness imputed to us through Your Son, Jesus Christ, that we can stand righteous before You. Grant us the ability to be honest about our sins, the humility to repent and turn from them, and an attitude in our hearts that gives you all the honor, praise, and glory. May we so steadfastly and joyfully abide in You that this is our daily conviction and prayer. Amen.

