

A hand in a brown leather baseball glove is shown from the bottom left, reaching upwards. A baseball is suspended in the air in the upper center of the frame. The background is a clear blue sky with some light, wispy clouds. The overall scene is captured in a low-angle shot, emphasizing the upward motion.

# *Playing Catch With God*

And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province *are* there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem *is* also broken down, and its gates *are* burned with fire.

Call to the Word Nehemiah 1:3-11

So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *for many* days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Call to the Word Nehemiah 1:3-11

And I said: "I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, *You* who keep *Your* covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open,

Call to the Word Nehemiah 1:3-11

that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned.

Call to the Word Nehemiah 1:3-11

We have acted very corruptly against You, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. Remember, I pray, the word that You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, '*If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations;*

Call to the Word Nehemiah 1:3-11

but *if* you return to Me, and keep My commandments and do them, though some of you were cast out to the farthest part of the heavens, *yet* I will gather them from there, and bring them to the place which I have chosen as a dwelling for My name.'

Call to the Word Nehemiah 1:3-11

Now these *are* Your servants and Your people,  
whom You have redeemed by Your great power,  
and by Your strong hand.

Call to the Word Nehemiah 1:3-11



O Lord, I pray, please let Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant, and to the prayer of Your servants who desire to fear Your name; and let Your servant prosper this day, I pray, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." For I was the king's cupbearer.

Call to the Word Nehemiah 1:3-11

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

Call to the Word 1 Peter 5:6-7

*Keyla Venezuela*



**1Pe 5:7** ...casting all your cares [*all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all*] on Him, for He cares about you [*with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully*].

Casting = 'to throw' or 'to roll upon'

Playing Catch With God - Introduction

## Feel the Pressure – Empathy

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

**(Neh 1:4)**

Nehemiah 1:3-4 – The Care

## We cast our cares through prayer

1. Recognizing God for who He is (vv4-5)
2. We clear the air between us and God (vv 6-7)
3. Claim the promises of His Word (8-11)

2Pe 1:4-5

Nehemiah 1:5-7 – The Casting

## We cast our cares through prayer

*“We have heard the promises given to His apostles of the power of prayer in His name, and we have seen how gloriously they experienced their truth: we therefore know for certain. The promises are for us, and the powers and gifts of the heavenly world are for us. Oh, teach us to pray so that we may receive abundantly.” (Murray)*

Nehemiah 1:5-7 – The Casting

## We cast our cares through prayer

1. Recognizing God for who He is (vv4-5)
2. We clear the air between us and God (vv 6-7)
3. Claim the promises of His Word (8-11)
4. Make your request (v11)

Nehemiah 1:5-7 – The Casting



# We cast our cares through prayer

*“It is possible to move men through  
God by prayer alone.”  
(Taylor)*

Nehemiah 1:5-7 – The Casting

## We cast our cares through prayer

Pro 21:1

“Like irrigation canals carrying water so is the heart of the king in Jehovah’s hand... He causes it to bend and incline in whatever direction He pleases.”

***Problem People stand within the jurisdiction of our Sovereign God...***

Nehemiah 1:5-7 – The Casting

## **We Must Be Constant in Prayer**

**“... hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night...” (v6)**

**Eph 6:18**

**Nehemiah 2:1 –Consistent Casting**

## We Must Be Willing and Ready to Act

Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven.

*"Arrows to heaven are most effective after seasons of prayer."*

Nehemiah 2:2-6

# We Must Be Willing and Ready to Act

“...it pleased the King to send me”

*Nehemiah was a man of honor and integrity and had a good reputation before the King.*

Pro 16:9

Nehemiah 2:7-8

# We Must Be Willing and Ready to Act

**Nehemiah thought it through with Godly  
wisdom**

*WISDOM IS THE ABILITY to see with discernment,  
to view life as God perceives it. Understanding is  
the skill to respond with insight. (Swindoll)*

Nehemiah 2:7-8



**Nehemiah 2:10**

**We Must Realize  
It's Not Done**

**When you finish  
one game of catch,  
you invariably get  
into another!**

## Reflections

**We are living stones, we must stop living as dead ones. (1Pe 2:5)**

*Of all the things the Bible promises, very few of them are very real to these people because they are finding it difficult to get out of the graveyard of their circumstances.*

Nehemiah 2:10



## Reflections

What is impossible for the Lord to experience?  
Worry.

What dispels worry? Worship.

What does worship inspire? Trust

Pro 3:5-6; Isa 12:2, 26:4

Nehemiah 2:10

# Reflections

You are Stronger Than You Think You Are... in Him

1Pe 1:7, 5:10

Nehemiah 2:10

# Reflections

Your Potential in Christ is Limitless

*God has given every believer the promise of spiritual maturity.*

1Jn 3:2, 1Pe 5:6-7

Nehemiah 2:10

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