

# I WILL SURVIVE

## Nehemiah 1: 3-11

As I was preparing this sermon, I received some devastating news by text from my brother Bishop Clarke which said, “Dee is gone.” The previous night Bishop sent a text asking us to pray for his daughter Dee so that the infection in her lungs would be removed. I called a couple of people and asked them to pray for her believing that the Lord would heal her this year as He did last year. When I read the text that Dee is gone I wanted to respond, “Gone where?” Then it dawned on me that He meant gone to be with the Lord. As much as I look forward to being with the Lord in eternity and wanting my loved ones to meet me there, I was not ready for our daughter to precede us. This has been a rough week, but by the grace of God I will survive.

Our text is about a people who had survived the devastation of a burned city called Jerusalem. The city laid in ruins for years because the survivors were overcome with grief that they could not muster up the energy to rebuild the city. But God gave one man a vision to rebuild the city and restore its glory. This man named Nehemiah gathered the manpower, resources and tools to rebuild the city and bring back God’s glory to Jerusalem. He followed the vision from God, sought His wisdom and walked in obedience to the call of God on his life. In other words, Nehemiah said, “I will.”

Today I stopped by to tell you that you too can survive. Survival is not pretty but painful. You can survive a divorce, health challenges, a car accident, the loss of a job, the loss of a loved one, the loss from a disaster. Yes, it is painful but just remember that God’s grace is sufficient for you. When defeat stares you in the face and doubt clouds your mind, remember that we walk by faith and not by sight. There is a God who can heal, deliver and set the captives free. And if He chooses not to, He can comfort, counsel and correct any situation.

Let me share with you three things from the text that can help us to survive. Just say I Will:

1. Learn the Value of Prayer.
  - A. Pray for a revelation in the midst of the devastation.
  - B. Pray for consolation in the midst of the devastation.
  
2. Learn the Value of Presence.
  - A. The presence of God
  - B. The presence of good people
  
3. Learn the Value of Prosperity.
  - A. Prosperity in light of your faithfulness
  - B. Prosperity in light of God’ favor