Nehemiah’s Pattern of Prayer
Nehemiah 1:5-11

NEHEMIAH
REBUILDING THE WALLS
Nehemiah 1:5-11 (NIV)

5 Then I said: "O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. 7 We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses. 8 "Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations,
but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.' 10 "They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. 11 O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man." I was cupbearer to the king
FOUR SECRETS TO ANSWERED PRAYER FROM THE LIFE OF NEHEMIAH:

• BASE YOUR REQUEST ON GOD'S CHARACTER. Pray like you know God will answer you:
  – Nehemiah said three things about God:
    • You're great – that's God's position.
    • You're awesome – that shows his power.
    • You keep your promises – God's covenant.
SECONDLY CONFESS THE SIN IN OUR LIVES.

I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. 7 We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

– Leaders accept the blame but losers pass the buck. If you want to be a leader, you accept the blame, and share the credit.

– Losers are always accusers and excusers. They're always making excuses why things didn't or couldn't happen.
CLAIM THE PROMISES OF GOD.

• Nehemiah is praying to the Lord and saying, "I want you to remember what you told your servant Moses." Can you imagine saying, "remember" to God? He's reminding God what he had said in the past. God, you warned us through Moses that if we were unfaithful we would loose the land of Israel.
All through the Bible you find God's people reminding God about what he said he wants to do. David did it. Abraham did it. Moses did it. All the prophets did it. "God, I want to remind you of one of Your promises ..." Then they'd share it.

– Does God have to be reminded? No.
– Does he forget what he's promised? No.
– Then why do we do this?

Because it helps us remember what God has promised.
• BE VERY SPECIFIC IN WHAT WE ASK FOR. If you want specific answers to prayer you need to make specific requests.

• If you make general prayers, how will you know if they are answered?

• Nehemiah is not hesitant to pray for success. He's very bold in his praying. Have you ever prayed, "Lord, make me successful!" If you haven't, why haven't you?

• If you can't ask God to make you a success at what you're doing, you should be doing something else. God doesn't want you to waste your life.