

## Treasuring His Word

### From the Pastor's Heart:

“Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God to seek from Him a safe journey for us, our little ones, and all our possessions. For I was ashamed to request from the king troops and horsemen to protect us from the enemy on the way, because we had said to the king, ‘The hand of our God is favorably disposed to all those who seek Him, but His power and His anger are against all those who forsake Him.’ So we fasted and sought our God concerning this matter, and He listened to our entreaty” (Ezra 8:21-23).

When we tell others that we have faith in God, what do we mean by that? Are these just words we know we are supposed to say as Christians, or do we actually trust Him? Ezra and the believers in his day were preparing to make the long journey from Babylon to Jerusalem. They had told King Artaxerxes that God's powerful hand would give those who seek Him favor. That means God would protect them and provide for them. Ezra felt ashamed to ask for protection from the King for it would show that in reality he did not trust God. So, Ezra had the people fast and seek God's face, and Ezra 8:31-32a says, “Then we journeyed from the river Ahava on the twelfth of the first month to go to Jerusalem; and the hand of our God was over us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy and the ambushes by the way. Thus we came to Jerusalem...”

As you begin this new journey into 2019, first of all, be sure your journey is that one specifically of following Jesus where He is going. If you do, even though spiritual “ambushes” will confront you along the way, you can trust God for the needs that arise. Instead of God being your last resort, place in Him your complete trust! He will take care of you!