

Haggai

Be Strong and Work

Restoration ...

I. Repent of Self-Service

- A. Reconsider Your Ways
- B. Reset Your Priorities
- C. Refocus Your Efforts

II. Rebuild to Honor God

- A. Regroup
- B. Restore
- C. Redouble

III. Rejoice With Fear

- A. In God's Presence
- B. With His Joy
- C. Over His Work

... and renewal.

Children, Listen ...

1. When God's people returned to Jerusalem what needed to be done with the Temple?
2. Why did the people need to be reminded about what needed to be done?
3. Can we get so busy with what we are doing that we forget that we are serving God?
4. Do you think we will be happiest when we are doing the things that God takes joy in?
5. How can fearing God and rejoicing in His presence go together?

Stirred Up

The remnant that returned to Jerusalem from captivity became discouraged and distracted. There was joy in their return, but they returned to rubble, so they needed to rebuild much of the city and they needed to restore the Temple. They were discouraged for at least three reasons: 1. The task they were given was daunting. 2. unbelievers were harassing Them. 3. They were disappointed with the state of things as compared to the way they were in the 'glory days.' They soon became distracted and lost focus on the primary thing God wanted them to devote themselves to, namely the re-building of His house of worship. They were giving great attention to their own pursuits (which were not in themselves bad) at the expense of Kingdom work. Their priorities were wrong. Thankfully the people heard and responded to the prophet's rebuke – they became "stirred up" and they got to work on what God had called them to do. We have a lot to do in life with work obligations, commitments, some of us have families and others have health concerns that require a lot of attention ... the list can go on. But we must never forget that amidst our pursuits we must always remember that our priorities are to do with the things of God and His kingdom, including the work of His church. Amid all our responsibilities and our pleasures let us not neglect our call to fervently serve to the Lord according to our gifts and calling.