

Is it Time to Build the House of the Lord?

Haggai 1:1-11

Living Hope Expositor's Class

Prepared by: Steve Blaha

Sunday, April 10, 2016, 4pm at Living Hope Church of Roselle, Illinois

livinghopechurch.net

Propositional Statement: God is glorified and His people are satisfied as they give themselves to build His House.

Please open your Bibles to Haggai 1: 1-11. This afternoon we are looking at a message entitled “Is it Time to Build the House of the LORD?” Please stand with me as we read the Word of the LORD.

The Command to Rebuild the Temple

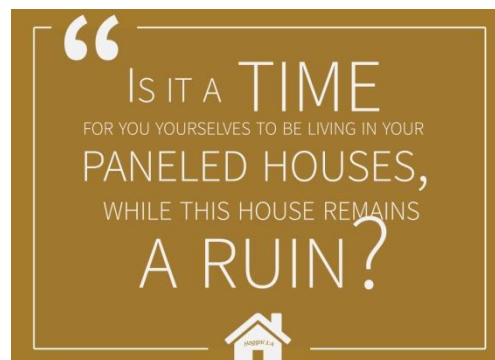
Haggai 1:1–11, “In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest: ²“Thus says the LORD of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD.” ³Then the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, ⁴“Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? ⁵Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁶You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.

⁷“Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. ⁸Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD. ⁹You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house. ¹⁰Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. ¹¹And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors.”

This is the Word of the LORD—you may be seated.

Introduction

I heard a simple story many years ago that profoundly impacted me. I don't remember the exact words, but I distinctly remember the core of its meaning, so allow me creative freedom to



elaborate. It went something like this: In ancient times a traveler was walking down a dusty city street on which a number of artisans lived. He came upon a young man hammering a large stone with a chisel by the side of the road and asked him, Excuse me, sir. What are you doing?” With a somewhat exasperated look on his face the young man immediately retorted, “What does it look like I’m doing? I’m hammering this rock with a chisel!” The young man returned to his hammering and the traveler continued on. He next came upon a middle aged man who was likewise hammering a large stone with a chisel and asked him the same question, “Excuse me, sir. What are you doing?” Glad for an excuse to take a quick break from his labors, the man briefly rested the head of his hammer on the ground, looked at the traveler and said, “I’m fashioning and cutting this stone so it can be fitted together with others to make a wall of a temple.” The traveler thanked the man for the explanation, wished him well, and went on his way. Almost immediately he came upon an older man who also was cutting a large stone with hammer and chisel. This man seemed to be intensely focused on viewing the stone from many angles in order to make his cut true and accurate as possible. He held the rock with fervent devotion making a precise mark where the stone should be struck. With a power and strength that belied the old man’s years, he struck the chisel with authority. The traveler was watching this entire scene with awe, not wanting to distract the old man. But when he saw the look of triumph and pleasure on the artisan’s face and saw him victoriously holding the cut stone with fire in his eyes, he had to speak. “May I ask you, sir, what you are doing?” With genuine joy that spread from his grin and flooded his entire being, the old man raised his hands and nearly shouted, “I’m building a temple for my Lord!” (Pause) In this parable the traveler finds that each man was commissioned to do the exact same task. Only one, however, was motivated by deep seated desire to please the one for whom the Temple was to be built. And that is what opened his understanding and gave him the vision of the importance of what he was called to do—not just to hammer rocks, but to build the temple of His Lord! And that vision gave him joy and purpose and strength!

Is that what motivates you every day when you get out of bed? Are you filled with intense joy and power in the Holy Spirit because you know you have a part to play in pleasing the LORD, doing His will by **building the temple of God**?

Yes, Jesus said, “I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it!” Christ is building His church! But in His sovereign grace He has given us the privilege of working with Him in that awesome endeavor! And He has ordained that we will find great joy, peace and pleasure in doing that which brings Him pleasure and glory! That is the primary point of our message this afternoon: It is God’s will and His time that His people build His House!

I. **God’s OT people delayed in building His house**, (1:2, 4, 6, 10).

In our passage today we find that God’s people had once labored with such a fervent vision in their hearts to please the Lord by building His temple, but because of delays and distractions fueled by wrong priorities, their hearts had grown cold. When the remnant first returned from exile they immediately set up an altar of sacrifice and laid the temple’s foundation. But that initial zeal and fervency of spirit had too soon abated and 18 years later the empty foundation stones bore silent testimony against God’s people that they had not put His desires

first. What happened to them? And what does God want us to learn from His interaction with them? By carefully considering the Word the LORD spoke to them, we also can be transformed to again love what the LORD loves and get pleasure from what gives Him pleasure. But we first must go back and give a little historical context to those verses we read. So please hang with me and listen carefully while I give you this important background so we can understand what the LORD is saying in this passage.

Explanation: God’s Hesed Covenant Love

Our God is a merciful, faithful, covenant keeping God who is full of *hesed*—His gracious, “marriage covenant like” lovingkindness toward His people-- even when His people have been stubborn and rebellious and full of sinfulness and idolatry. This was the case over hundreds of years of Israel’s history, with Yahweh warning His people over and over that they would be cast out of His Holy Land and given over into the power of a pagan people. Yahweh finally kept His promise in 586 BC when He used the Babylonians to destroy His own temple and His Holy City and drove Israel into exile -- and eventually under Persian rule. But God was still merciful in His promise that that captivity would last only a short time and they would be restored to the Land and Himself. After the years Yahweh had determined was appropriate, the decree of Cyrus allowed a remnant of Jewish people (about 50,000) to return to build His temple in around 538 BC. Most Jews stayed in Babylon/Persia where many had become comfortable with material blessings. Those few who decided to make the sacrifice to come to the Promised Land either 1) were filled with fervent zeal to glorify God, build His temple, live in the Land of Promise and obey His covenant Word to see His Name honored or 2) were poor and didn’t have much to lose, or desired and hoped God would see their need and grant them blessings to strengthen their families or increase their material well-being as a result of their willingness to come back to the Promised Land and build the temple. Perhaps, for some, it was a combination of both.

In either case, by their very act of returning to the land of Israel they were declaring themselves to be God’s chosen remnant and His covenant people. With singing and music and shouts of joy they built the sacrificial altar and laid the foundation of the temple in 537 BC (Ezra 3:11) However, by 520 BC, when God spoke through Haggai, the temple was still in ruins and God’s people were discouraged and complacent. Let’s take a closer look at what the LORD said to His people. (v.2) Thus says the LORD of heaven’s armies: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the House of the LORD. (v.4) Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? At the time they were not acting as God’s chosen covenant people, so Yahweh addressed them as “this people” saying, “This people says it is not time yet for Yahweh’s house to be rebuilt.” Notice they did not have an objection to building God’s house. Their objection was simply the timing. Why not the right time? There were a number of reasons. There was the constant opposition (spiritual warfare) against building from the ancestors of the Samaritans and other pagan peoples in the surrounding Trans-Euphrates community, who had obtained an interdict against the work for a number of years. Also, in one way of counting Jeremiah’s 70 years of devastation and exile, they still might have had two or three years to wait (Jer. 25: 11-14). Furthermore, others may have said they were waiting for Messiah (the “Christ”) to rebuild the temple as Yahweh had promised according to Ezekiel 37:

24-27. People can always find a good reasonable excuse—even in Scripture—for delaying or putting off the building up of the house of the Lord! But the primary reason for the delay was that times were difficult. Resources were scarce. There was a severe drought that had lasted for many years which had ravaged the land and ruined their crops. Remember, they were a very small percentage of Hebrew exiles who had made great sacrifices in leaving the comfort and security of a settled and stable community in exile for the uncertainty of being pioneers working to build up God’s devastated city and His destroyed temple in a hostile and difficult environment. Some of them must have been very confused that they, the faithful ones, seemed far from Yahweh’s promised blessing in their present poverty stricken existence. Like Peter, they must have wanted to ask the LORD, “See we have left everything to follow you. What then will we have?” (Mat. 19: 27) But Yahweh was saying to this people, have you truly left all to follow me? Did I not bring you here to build my house?! Isn’t your questioning the timing of building My House just an excuse, since you have spent plenty of time and money building up your own houses and households? So Yahweh addressed them again through Haggai: Is it time for you (even you) to dwell in your (even your) paneled (made comfortable, even, perhaps, luxurious) houses? – while God’s house lies desolate?

If they could build comfortable houses for themselves, conditions could not have been too bad. Paneling could have perhaps indicated more than a modest dwelling. It could even have been cedar wood originally set aside for temple construction halted years before. There is nothing wrong with taking care of your own household and family needs. But apparently, they had settled into a focus on making certain their own physical needs and comforts were taken care of, while the house of God remained desolate.

God Humbled His People for a Greater Blessing

Question: Did God want to bless His people and for them to have strong families and did He want to take care of their physical needs for food, clothing and shelter? Absolutely! He is a loving, covenant keeping God! But He had called His people to a higher calling – something even more important than those things. He had called them to build the Temple of the LORD! He had called them to find pleasure and blessing in doing what brought God pleasure and blessing! And that is why He was willing to personally bring drought and famine and hardship, turmoil and frustrated dissatisfaction among His people. Look at what (vv. 10-11) says. Yahweh Himself called for the drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast and all their labors! He humbled them until they were open to receiving this higher calling and greater blessing!

The Result Was God’s People Listened to Him

Did God get through to them? Yes, praise His Name! But not until He made it clear to them by His Word through Haggai. Notice that in (v.2) leadership was not necessarily included in God’s rebuke to His people (v. 3) because the governor and the high priest alone could not build the Temple. To build God’s House requires all His people working together in unity. Haggai, God’s prophet spoke His Word to Zerubbabel the governor (God’s king) and to Joshua (God’s high priest). It was a Word to His People saying, “Consider Your Ways!” They did so. They all realized they had been focused on their own households and their own families and

ministries to the neglect of God's House. They all repented and, united in heart, all embraced and obeyed the LORD. And as they began to build God's House, His blessing came upon them. The LORD declared, "I am with you!" (1:13) His people had been fearful because they knew the glory of the Spirit of God had departed from His temple when they had been exiled out of the land. (Ezek. 11: 23-25), though God promised His glory would return (Ezek. 43: 1-5) But here, immediately when the community united in one heart to honor the LORD and build His Temple, God encouraged them with this word. He was still their covenant God who loved them and was faithful to His promises despite their unfaithfulness, and now He states, "I am with you!" His special manifest Presence – His Glory—His Eternal Spirit--had returned to dwell in His temple!

Transition I think it's easy to see the abundant NT parallels here. We will focus just on the couple that our text brings us to.

.....

II. God's NT people should not delay in building His house, (Eph. 2:19-22).

We Are God's Temple

The OT House of the Lord, His Temple, was the dwelling place of God's special Presence among His people (1Ki. 8:27-30). But the High Priest alone could approach that Presence only once a year – and that not without blood and in much fear and apprehension. Today, through the grace of God because of the blood of Jesus Christ, His special Presence is within us, His people, by His Spirit and we are His Temple, the Church (1 Cor. 3:16-17) Let's read and consider Eph. 2:19-22— Christians, those who have the Holy Spirit, are here revealed to be "members of the House or Household of God" (these words are similar in the Greek). We are, together, His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the cornerstone. We are carefully being joined together in Him, growing into a holy temple for the Lord. "Through Him you are being built together into a dwelling where God lives by His Spirit" (Eph. 2:22).

The Beauty of God's Temple Not Seen Fully until the NT

In the passage we previously read in Haggai, the foundation of the Temple of God was there, but was God's Spirit and His glory able to be fully seen? No—not until God stirred the hearts of all the people to build up His Temple. The NT foundation of the Church has been laid also—but can the Spirit of God move freely to fully glorify the Lord in His temple? Through warfare and bondage because of sinful resistance to His call to build His church, Has the Body of Christ in America been reduced over time to barely more than a foundation with a great part of the temple itself still unfinished? I'm just raising the question. This is something we must take to heart and seriously consider. In any case, Christ is building His church and He calls us to be a part of the building up of His Temple—His House/Household.

We are Called to Build Up God’s Household

Later on in Ephesians the fourth chapter God tells us how this “building up” or edification takes place. Each member of Christ’s Household –His Body—is to speak the truth in love and build up or edify (that’s what edify means—to build up) every other member in love until we all come to unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God—to the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4: 11-16). This is not just for leaders or elders. This is for everyone. We cannot fully glorify Christ until each one of us is functioning in this way. We are all called to something far greater than the sum of all of our lives, all of our families or all our ministries put together. We are called to be part of the Body of Christ, His Bride, the Household of God, His Temple. There are many metaphors for the Church because she is multifaceted and beyond our understanding, even as Christ is. The Church, His Body, is “the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” (Eph. 1: 22-23) He loves His Body, His Bride, His Household, His Temple. This is what pleases Him and this is what glorifies Him. Just like marriage, but in an even more profound way, God has created the church to be His Bride and to be His means for us to grow in holiness, to know Him more and to be filled with His Spirit. *God tells us, in Ephesians 5, Christ laid down His life, shed His blood and gave Himself up for—His Church, His Bride! (v. 25) He also says He nourishes and cherishes His church, His Bride because we are members of His Body! (v. 29-30) Therefore, we are to love our wives (and one another) as Christ has loved His Church.*

An I DO that is better than E-Harmony

When we give up our own lives, wills and desires in order to love the Church that He loves, and give ourselves for her (in a small way similar to what He did), we find ourselves sharing His eternal joy, His heavenly peace, and His Incomparable Presence. In His Presence is fullness of Joy—at His right hand are pleasures forevermore! Do you want a foretaste of that!? That’s what we share as we lay down our lives for one another, as we esteem others higher than ourselves, as we love what the Lord loves—His Bride, His Body, His Household, His Temple. Saints do you want to have the joy that the LORD has? If you do, say “I DO!” I DO! That’s appropriate for the Bride of Christ! Do you want the pleasure that gives Him pleasure forever? If you do, say, “I DO!” I DO! AMEN! I think I found someone the Lord may be interested in! This is better than e-Harmony!

III. Consider common excuses for not building God’s house, (Ps. 127:1).

1. We are Often Preoccupied with our Own Interests.

Do you think the people of God in Haggai’s time also wanted the blessing of the Presence of His Spirit and the special manifestation of His joy? Yes, of course they did! What was keeping it from them? God was! He was standing against them. Why? Because they were preoccupied with their own interests and neglecting what mattered to God—the building of His House. He wasn’t punishing them. He was getting their attention so He could bless them with lives filled

with eternal significance and His Spirit! What did the LORD say to them? “Consider your ways!” This is a Hebrew idiom meaning “*put your heart on your roads*”¹ which is translated by the NIV as “Give careful thought to your ways.” The five examples which follow in the text are all saying essentially the same thing: I, your Lord, have made your efforts all in vain, for you have neglected that which delights the Lord and are preoccupied with your own interests.

It is not that different today. Let me paint a word picture of what it was like for those saints back in Haggai’s day and see if some of it doesn’t sound like your life. The economy is terrible. We work hard for very little. The little that we do get seems to dwindle like magic through inflation – just as if someone were taking money right out of our pockets! The government seems to be opposed to everything God’s people try to do. Spiritual warfare is intense and both pagans and those who think they belong to the LORD both persecute us. Unusual weather patterns even appear to be against us. It’s very discouraging. We pray, but God doesn’t seem to answer in the way we’d like Him to. We want to give ourselves to bless and build up the House of the LORD, but our own households seem to require so much attention that it’s almost impossible. We’re being stretched to the limit and sometimes we feel we just can’t do it. Perhaps the opposing circumstances are so difficult we think it must not be God’s timing. We should maybe wait until less stressful times to fulfill the ministry God has called us to. We should strengthen our own finances and houses before we put more time and resources into the LORD’s. After all, “unless the LORD builds the house, the laborers labor in vain who build” (Ps. 127:1). Therefore, let’s wait for God’s timing.

Have you ever felt that way? Be honest! Have you ever thought like that? Raise your hand if you ever felt like that. Well the scene I just described was exactly the scenario the people of God faced 2500 years ago. This is exactly what Yahweh was addressing through the prophet Haggai. But, brothers and sisters, we who are called to be part of God’s NT Temple, His house, know that our Lord has already clearly proclaimed He is building the Temple of His House and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it! (Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19-22). There is no question about it – He is now building His eternal House and Household- His Church. The only question is – are you a part of that House and that Household. If you are, then the NT tells us His will is that we join Him in building. We can sit here and “curse” others by criticizing and gossiping and tearing them down because God is not sanctifying them fast enough or in the same way He is sanctifying us. Or we can treat them as the beloved of God, which they are. In fact, treat them as Christ Himself-- serving them, loving them, esteeming them as better than ourselves, having faith for others and praying for them that God’s Spirit will ultimately bring them to a glorious maturity far beyond what we could imagine. That’s what edification is. That’s what it means to “build up” the Body of Christ—His Temple. So when the Lord speaks concerning this, He is emphasizing our inner attitudes and motivations, not merely what we do externally.

2. We are Often Preoccupied with our Own Independent Ministry.

It is possible to be full of yourself and promoting your own independent ministry while outwardly working furiously and tirelessly in frenetic activity for the “sake of the church.” It is also possible to appear to be doing absolutely nothing for the sake of the church or the Kingdom

¹ Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Haggai 1:5-7

of God (for example, someone providentially hindered from even coming to church services, but privately fervently praying for the brethren), and yet, in the sight of the Lord, bearing more fruit than even church leaders. I believe there will be some major surprises at the judgment seat of Christ, don't you?!

3. We are Often Preoccupied with the Normal Pressures of Life.

Therefore, let me be perfectly clear about this. There are times when the pressures of life and work and family commitments make it necessary to spend more time on these things (like selling our house). When those things happen we don't have to get condemned. How much time we spend on "church activities" is not the point of this message. God is simply pointing out where the priority must be for stewardship of the time and the resources God has given us. The priority must be God's house, His forever family!

IV. Repent and take action by building God's house, (Eph. 2:19-22).

What's the answer to all these excuses? We need to repent. That means we need to see things as God sees them.

God Led Israel to Repentance

Consider that God led Israel to repentance. God is speaking here in Haggai chapter 1 to His own covenant people and He is personally involved in making certain their efforts are in vain because He wants to lead them to repentance and true worship in giving their lives to delight the heart of God. He knows that what is for His glory is also for their own good. He has designed us so that our hearts are only satisfied when we are living for His glory and His purposes. Furthermore, all the things we desire in addition to Him, which may become idols when they are substituted for Him, He gives to us abundantly when we simply give ourselves to Him and His purposes. That's why Jesus tells us to put His kingdom and righteousness first, and all else that we desire and worry about (necessities such as food and clothes) will be provided for us (Mt. 6:33).

God Can Lead us to Repentance

We need to be awakened out of all our own concerns and distractions.

God sees our problem clearly: being wrapped up in our own concerns. (Pogo—we have met the enemy and he is us!) A vision of His Temple and building His Temple lifts us out of ourselves because it is something we cannot accomplish on our own – even with the grace and power of the Lord! It takes each one of us working together in unity and in the grace and power of God to see this Temple built. But this is how the Lord is truly glorified and this is how we genuinely love God and love His people.

Putting This into Practice

So, how do we put this into practice? After all, it's one thing to know what we ought to be doing. It's quite another thing to actually be doing it. I was personally deluded and deceived into thinking I had this one down—primarily because God had tested me in this area.

Reading Clinic

Robin and I have been operating a Reading Clinic out of our home for eleven years, and for the past seven years or so we have not had to advertise. God has blessed our work to such a degree that most parents are so thrilled with the dramatic changes they see in their children that they want to tell others, and so, our business has grown almost exclusively by word of mouth. However, usually in the fall of every year we found our enrollment dwindling so that Robin would start freaking out, wondering whether we would ever get another client at all. I was in a difficult position because, contrary to the lies of popular philosophy, not everyone has the same amount of disposable time (just like not everyone has the same amount of disposable income). My health has been such that I must spend an unusual and inordinate amount of time just doing the things that will keep me alive in order to do what my gracious Lord wants me to do. If I were to devote any time at all to advertising, it would surely take away from some things I knew the Lord wanted me to do (such as small groups and teaching God's Word). So I was determined to trust the Lord and what He said in Mat. 6:33. – that He would take care of our needs if I sought His Kingdom and righteousness. Therefore, I purposely ignored the ominous situation with the business and our finances and, instead, poured myself into serving and loving Christ and His people. And each time, each year, God was faithful to meet our needs. Miraculously, clients then just seemed to pour in the door. I had chosen to serve His House, and He took care of my house.

So, as I said, when the Lord put Haggai on my heart to share with all of you, I was thinking to myself, "Yes, I have been through this issue about putting God's house above my own. And it's something many of us really need to hear." I didn't realize how badly I needed to hear it myself. Scripture says, "Let anyone who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10: 12). And, "If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know" (1 Cor. 8:2). I soon found out God wanted me to live this message as He was giving it to me.

Personal Illustration

On March 18 I had just been notified that I was first on the preaching schedule for Expositor's class. Although I had submitted my message outline many weeks previously, that was all I had been able to do on it, since I had been spending every spare moment preparing our house to be put on the market. I wasn't even sure that my outline or topic was what God had in mind. I was absolutely sure it was impossible for me to give this teaching and I was talking to Cedric and began giving him my excuses: "There's no way I am even going to have time to even think about this message for at least eight weeks. I can't possibly do it. I have not had the time to even think about it the last month. How do you give a message when you don't even have time to seek God concerning it or meditate on it at all? Even if I took every spare minute to work on our house, it would be a miracle if we got it ready by the appointed time. And I know God wants us to do this—He had already worked in miraculous ways in answer to prayer just to release us

from this situation. And we have to sell the house now! The people across the street already have a for sale sign up and the electric company is planning a 175-foot tower of power lines 100 yards from our house and property values will plummet and...”

Cedric was just looking at me and he wasn't buying any of that. He just said it sounded like a bunch of excuses to him and he said, “you have to do it. You committed yourself to it.” I thought to myself, “I didn't commit myself to giving it April 3 (it turned out to be 10th). I'll just have to fail the class. Maybe I can give it later. The time is not right.” When I thought, “the time is not right” a little alarm bell started to go off in my mind— where did I hear that phrase? Hmmm. Oh yeah. Haggai. “This people says the time is not yet come or the time is not right for the House of the Lord to be built.” Hmmmm... Conviction! Big time! Yes, I had been walking in this message... but God was calling me (and all of us) to make His House a priority in my life regardless of circumstances. I would just need to trust Him that He would somehow give me the time and opportunity to prepare this message. Once again God's Spirit spoke clearly to me at that time and said, “You take care of My House and I'll take care of yours”. Saints, when is the time right to build the Lord's house? Now! What needs to take priority—my house or His? His! What about you? Will you allow God's priority to become yours?

Conclusion

God's covenant people came to the Promised Land for the very purpose of building up Jerusalem, specifically the Temple. But they got sidetracked and began to settle for a much lesser purpose. God had to give them a spiritual “slap up the side of the head” so they would realize what their priorities should be. The Lord made life very difficult for them so that they looked for much, but realized very little fruit or harvest. God's command to them that they should “Consider your ways” is what He confronts us with today.

Consider your ways! Have you been looking for a greater blessing in your life, a more intimate awareness of the Lord's Presence? Have you desired to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit, His love and joy, the “abundant life” the Lord promised, but you've been continually disappointed? Perhaps you need to repent like the people of God in Haggai's day, let your mind be renewed, and begin to love what God loves and delight in what God delights in. This is not so much a change in the externals of what we do, but more of a change in heart attitude, vision and focus. We need to have before us at all times a clear purpose that transcends our own lives and exalts Christ. He purchased us with His Own Divine blood. Our wills, our lives, our resources, our time are not our own—we have been bought with a precious price! We belong to Him and He loves us! He loves His Temple, His Church, His House, His Bride! This is what He is calling us to by His Spirit—to love what He loves! Let us give ourselves to see His Temple built up. For in this way is Christ exalted, God is pleased and His Name is honored. Then the Word of the LORD through Haggai will be fulfilled—not just the Word which declares, “I am with you” (1:13), but also those which came very shortly after which said, “My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not. . . in a little while I will shake the heavens and the earth and shake all nations so that the desire of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this House with glory, says the LORD of hosts. . . The latter glory of this House shall be greater than the former. . . And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of Hosts.” (2: 5-7,9) Let me ask you... Is it time to build the House of the Lord? Let's pray.