

Attitudes of the Heart

Haggai 2:1-9

1. Motivation vs. 1-5

A) Comparing Versus Longing

The people of God have become discouraged as the older generation were around before the Babylonian empire destroyed the temple that king Solomon had built, and they believe that the rebuilding of the temple will never compare. This comparison taking place caused dissatisfaction and complacency in their efforts in continuing the rebuilding. When we compare the present with the past, we will become dissatisfied.

When our expectations do not line up with what we are currently experiencing, we lose heart. However, if we choose to reflect on the great things God has done in the past and allow the reflection to grow a longing to experience God's great work in the present, it will drive us to faithfully depend on God in prayer.

Question:

- Take some time and reflect on the great things God has done in the past. May this reflection grow a longing to experience God's great work and be an encouragement to faithfully depend on Him in prayer.

B) Driven by Fear Versus Courageous Living

The people of God had an attitude of fear as they questioned if they would ever experience God's greatness again. Haggai reminded them that they can live courageously for the Lord without fear, as God's promised presence is the same as when the Israelites were rescued by God from Egypt and He faithfully led them to the promise land where they became the nation of Israel.

To courageously serve the Lord, we need to remember the God of the past is the God of the present. His promises remain, His presence remains, and His victorious plans continue to remain.

Question:

- What are potential fears that we need to be prepared to face? What truths found in Scripture about our God do we need to focus on so we will continue to courageously serve our Lord?

2. Perspective vs. 6-9

a) Pessimistic Perspective Versus God's Perspective

Pessimism had taken their eyes off God and their relationship with Him; assessing their situation based upon the limited human resources they had available to them. Haggai reminds them that God is the ultimate owner of all earth's treasures and not the Persians. How they experience God in the present will not only be similar to the past experiences but in ways that would surpass the past.

When we assess our situations based upon our limitations we will lose sight of God's perspective. When our focus is on God's perspective towards the situations we face, we will remain faithful to His plans, as God is the ultimate owner of all earth's treasures and our experience of God will be of greater things to come.

Question:

- To live for the Lord, we need to act with the values determined by God's perspective. What values should we focus on that allow us to have God's perspective for our lives?
- Do we place too much emphasis on outward material aspects of living and worship, and not enough on what really matters? (Proverbs 23:5; Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:21; 1 Timothy 6:9-10; Hebrews 13:5; James 5:1-3).