

Devotional: Day 22: Worship As An Act of Honouring God, Part 2

Author: Steve Thompson



Let's take a look, once again, at the physical temple, as mentioned in the scriptures:

Hagai 1:4: "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"

God asked the people how they could live in luxury when the temple was lying in ruins. The temple was the focal point of Judah's relationship with God, but it was still demolished. The more they built for themselves, the less they had because they ignored their spiritual lives.

We must put God first and He will provide and meet our deepest needs.
In order to be fruitful in our WORKS, we must put God first.

Moses predicted that God would withhold His blessings if the people neglected Him.

Hagai 1: 9: "*You* looked for much, but indeed *it came to* little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?" says the LORD of hosts. "Because of My house that *is in* ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.

Judah's problems were confused priorities.

Vacations, home, family, occupations - all these are important, but:

1. What is more important to you?
2. Where is God on your list of priorities?

Hagai 1: 11. : “For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and livestock, and on all the labor of *your* hands.”

Grain, grapes for wine, and olives for oil were Israel’s major crops. Almost equivalent to: a great Worship Team, good arrangements and good songs. All these are important, but not necessary!

The people depended on wine, olives, oil, etc for security while neglecting the worship of God. As a result, God would send a drought to destroy their livelihood and call them back to Himself.

The song, “*I’m coming back to the heart of Worship.....*’ reminds me that like Hosea, we need to ALMOST stop singing about coming back and **RETURN**.

God longs for intimacy!!! This should not be confused with familiarity.

Application:

We also sing, ‘*I love You Lord*’.

I personally have been so challenged recently to what extent I really do love our Father. Though we/I say I love God, HOW OBEDIENT ARE WE? HOW OBEDIENT AM I? **Loving God is seen in our obedience to Him. Let’s pause in this devotional now, bringing our heart to Him as I am doing now whilst writing. Check – am I living a life of obedience?**

What is God asking of us today?

Hagai 1: 14-15: “So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month, in the second year of King Darius.”

The people began rebuilding just 23 days after hearing Haggai’s message. Very rarely did a prophet’s message produce such a quick response.

How often we hear a sermon and think... “That was a good point...I ought to do that..” only to leave church and forget to act. These people in this chapter had put their words into action. How often to we read a devotional, scripture or book about worship and we say, ‘I will put ‘this’ into action now? WE NEED A PLAN to put our personal times of worship into action - WORSHIP. Either at night or morning – we must give over time to worship God.

WE LIFT OUR HANDS TO WORSHIP YOU

‘True success is seen in our *daily* agenda’

Hagai 2: 4: ‘Be strong...and work. For I am with you.’

We must be a people of daily prayer, bible study and worship, but eventually we must get out and do what God has in mind for us.

FAMILY PRAYER AND WORSHIP - God has called us to worship in the home. The secret closet is a very special place.

He wants to not only change us through our WORSHIP, but the very World we live in.

God has given you a responsibility within the team - the time has come for you to *'be strong and work'* because God is with you. Make a decision you are going to give Him your very best, whether in your job, local church, family or the Worship Team. The Holy Spirit will guide you. No matter what difficulties we face or how frustrating our work may be, God's Spirit is within us.

Last week (17.02.10) at rehearsal, we had a few interesting 'confessions' 😊 as to how we sometimes respond or behave in challenging or uncomfortable situation. Though it was a great laugh listening to the various ways we handled 'situations' we talked about God guiding us through His Word & Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will guide you. No matter what difficulties we face or how frustrating our work may be, God's Spirit is within and with us.

Haggai's message to the people sought to:

1. Get their priorities straight,
2. Help them to quit worrying
3. Motivate them to build their temple.

We must not place our priorities on our personal comfort, more than on helping to build the lives of those around us. IT WILL ULTIMATELY COST US!

GOD WILL GUIDE US AND GIVE US HIS STRENGTH WHEN WE GIVE HIM FIRST PLACE IN OUR LIVES – seeking first the Kingdom, as we are instructed through His word.

So, let us rebuild the altar of our hearts with a passion and determination.