

## The Only Way to God's Blessing Haggai 1:12-15

### Introduction:

1. A remnant of 42,000 Jews had returned to Jerusalem for the purpose of rebuilding God's temple. The temple was symbolic of the power and presence of God.
2. They worked for two years, but then quit. They rationalized and said, "The time is not come that the Lord's house should be built." vs. 2
3. It had been 16 years since they had done any work. They had built **themselves** beautiful homes, but God's house lied in shambles. They had become self-absorbed.
4. God raised up a prophet by the name of Haggai to deliver four sermons designed to reignite the fervor of the people to complete what they had started. He calls them to a renewed courage, holiness, and faith in God. "*Consider your ways.*" vs. 5, 7
5. The people had been struggling because the blessing of God was not on their lives. Haggai's message was simple - no temple, no blessings!
6. Today there is no building that is the temple of God. If we have trusted Christ to save us, His Spirit lives within us and **we** are the temple of God. Why is this? Because we have God's presence within our hearts. God's dealings are different with mankind today.
7. Today we don't labor to get God's physical, material blessings as Israel did. They operated under an Old Testament covenant that was very specific - "You do these things, I will bless the labor of your hands. If you don't do them, my blessings will be absent."
8. Today, God is offering spiritual, heavenly blessings to every person in the world through the merits of His Son, Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 1:3**). But how do we receive these spiritual blessings of the heart and soul from God?

### First, you must hear God's Word. vs. 12

1. God raised up a man named Haggai and gave Haggai His Word to take to the people.
  - Vs. 2 - "*Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying...*"
  - Vs. 3 - "*Then came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet...*"
  - Vs. 5 - "*...thus saith the Lord...*" cf. vs. 7
  - Vs. 12 - "*...the voice of the Lord their God...*"
  - Vs. 13 - "*Then spake Haggai the Lord's messenger in the Lord's message...*"
2. What if Haggai had not brought them God's Word? The people would have continued in their sinful, spiritually apathetic state. There would have been no change. The blessings of God would have been absent from their lives.
3. But God graciously gave them His Word. Did you know that God has given **us** His Word? God raised up a spokesman for us today, and revealed His Word to him, and he in turn gave it to us. His name is the apostle Paul. **Galatians 1:11-12; Acts 26:16-19**
4. God revealed to Paul the full extent of what Christ did on the cross for us. **Romans 5:8-10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:7, 2:12-13**
5. Paul calls it "*my gospel*" because Christ committed it to His trust. **1 Timothy 1:11**

6. Did you know that nobody can be saved and receive full forgiveness of their sins until they first **hear** the good news of what Christ has done for them?  
**Romans 10:13-14, 17; Ephesians 1:13**
7. Church - we have a mission. Take God's Word to the people of this world. They will never know the spiritual blessings God has for them until we take them God's Word!

### **Second, you must believe God's Word.**

1. When Haggai brought God's Word to the leaders and the people, did they scoff at it? Did they blow off Haggai and say, "He's a spiritual nut?"
2. No - there are two key phrases that reveal to us their heart attitude.
  - Vs. 12 - "*...and the people did fear before the Lord.*"
  - Vs. 14 - "*And the Lord stirred up the spirit...*"
3. The bringing of God's Word had stirred up these people in their inner being and their heart believed what Haggai had said. Had they not believed Haggai's message, they would have continued to miss out on God's plan and God's blessing in their lives.
4. It is the same today. When God's Word is proclaimed, you are faced with a choice - to either believe or reject the Word of God.
5. Paul's gospel tells us that we are sinners that have offended a holy God. We need a Savior. We need divine forgiveness. Christ has made a full and complete payment for our sins. He didn't just die for the sins of the world; He died for **your** sins.
6. Paul reveals God's Word to us - that we cannot atone for our sins and **earn** God's forgiveness by trying to do good. **Ephesians 2:8-9**
7. Christ is our only hope. He is the only answer. God has only one way of dealing with sin and that is through the finished work of His Son.
8. Nobody can be saved and receive all of God's spiritual blessings until they first **believe** what God's Word says. **Ephesians 1:13**
9. Do you believe God's Word? Once you hear it, you can make that choice.  
**1 Corinthians 1:21**

### **Third, you must obey God's Word.**

1. The people didn't say, "Yea, we believe you Haggai" and then go on their way building their own homes and neglecting the temple of God.
2. What did the people do when they heard and believed God's Word? They obeyed God and got to work.
  - Vs. 12 - "*...the remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God...*"
  - Vs. 14 - "*...and they came and did work in the house of the Lord of hosts...*"
3. There are many people today who have heard the gospel of Christ, and maybe have even intellectually believed its message (that Christ died and rose again), but they have never obeyed from the heart the gospel message. They have never with their heart believed on Christ.
4. Did you know that salvation from your sin is a heart issue? **Romans 10:10, 6:17**
5. You can intellectually assent to the elements of the gospel and still not be saved. You must make a choice of your **heart** to completely trust Christ as the only way to heaven.

6. Paul told the Philippian jailor, "Believe **on** the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." He did not say, "Believe **in** the Lord Jesus Christ." **Acts 16:31**
  - The devils believe in God and tremble. **James 2:19**
  - You can believe in something mentally but not trust in it. **Illustration:** pew - Believing **in** the pew to hold me up or believing **on** the pew to hold me up.
7. This is what Paul means when he talks about the gospel being made known to all nations for the "obedience of faith." **Romans 16:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:8**

### **In Conclusion:**

1. The Jewish remnant heard, believed, and by faith obeyed Haggai's message. Have you obeyed the gospel? Have you placed your trust completely in the finished work of Christ?
2. There is no other way to find favor and acceptance before God. Christ has done it all, but it is your decision whether or not to believe on him with all your heart and obey Paul's gospel.
3. The moment you do, God bestows unto you all the spiritual blessings of heaven that you will enjoy for all eternity. They are only found one place - in Christ.  
**Ephesians 1:3**