

Doing Great Things For God

Introduction

1. **God has given us a great work to do in helping to establish a true church of Christ in this community, even though we are small in number.**
 - A. **Let us not be overwhelmed by the work God has given us**

An Example of Long Ago

1. **A remnant of God's people returned to Canaan after being slaves in Babylon.**
 - A. **Their task was to rebuild the temple of Solomon that had been destroyed 70 years earlier**
 - B. **Also to rebuild homes and work the farms that had been left in ruins for over two generations.**
2. **They began well – laying the foundation of the new temple and shouting for joy. They gave thanks to the Lord.**

Ezra 3:11 And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever toward Israel." Then all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

3. **Shortly after, because of persecution the building work stopped.**
 - A. **They left the building of the temple to build their own homes and care for their own things – neglecting God.**
4. **Two prophets, Zechariah and Haggai were sent to the people and motivate them to get busy doing God's work.**

Haggai 1:4-7

Identifying with the Children of God

- 1. In most places the Lord's people are a small remnant as compared to other religions.**
 - A. Yet we have been given the very large task of building the true temple of God, the church of Christ.**
 - B. Some have faced discouragement from those who call themselves the church of Christ, but who are not.**
 - C. Some of us have started well, but then we have allowed the cares of the world to hinder us.**
 - A. We may experience financial hardship and consider ourselves too poor to give, yet we:**
 - 1) Build houses and educate our children.**
 - 2) We accumulate sound systems, televisions, cell phones and many other devices.**
 - a. Yet the congregation has no place to meet and not supporting the preaching of the gospel to the lost.**
 - D. Some tend to procrastinate when there is a difficult task to be done.**
- 2. Let us consider our ways!**
 - A. How can we build the church of the Lord, even if we are small in number?**

Haggai and Zechariah's Instruction Shows Us How

1. We can do it, when we do it for God!

Zechariah 4:6 So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.

- A. **No matter what we do for God, we are busy with what is truly great.**
- B. **Let us not complain, feel sorry for ourselves, or stop working, even when things get tough!**
Matthew 6:33

Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

2. Do not despise the small things (Zech 4:6)

- A. **Give what we can for the work of God in this location.**
 - 1) **Not just financially, but especially in time and effort!**
 - 2) **If we will give properly of our means and time, God will open the windows of heaven and pour out His blessings upon us.**

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

- 3) **We should want to give sacrificially in all aspects of our life for the Lord.**
2 Corinthians 8:2-3; 9:6-8

- a. **The more we give, the more we will receive!**

3. Be strong and work.

A. Even if we feel that what we have is nothing in comparison to what others have, be strong and work!

Haggai 2:3-4 'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing? Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the LORD; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and **be strong, all you people of the land,**' says the LORD, 'and work; **for I am with you,**' says the LORD of hosts.

B. We must study deeply and teach properly the oracles of God.

1) **We should practice good preparation in teaching, presiding at the Lord's table, leading songs and prayers.**

C. Our time together should be spent in encouraging each other to remain faithful and to do more!

Hebrews 10:23-25

D. Grow in knowledge so that we can teach souls the truth!

2 Timothy 2:15

Haggai 2:7-8 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts. 'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD of hosts.

4. Consider the greatness of the work!

Haggai 2:9 'The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts. 'And in this place I will give peace,' says the LORD of hosts."

A. The people of that time did not know how God was going to make that small temple great.

1) About 400 years later it was revealed that God was not prophesying here about their physical temple – but rather about the church of Christ!

B. Christ's church is the most glorious place of worship that has ever existed – even if only a handful of people!

C. No matter how great the task before us – it can be a reachable task with our effort and God's help

Zechariah 4:7 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain!...

1) The task of building the temple was pictured as a large mountain.

a. Even though we are starting something small, God can turn this small thing into something great!

Haggai 2:5 'According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!'

D. Our work and efforts today will change the lives of future generations forever!

