

It's Time to Respond to God's Call

It's Time #3 - Pastor Gary Combs - January 26, 2025 - Haggai 1:12-15

INTRO: Good morning church! We're continuing our series today called "It's Time!" We're going through the book of Haggai. Our theme comes from...

Haggai 1:2; 2:4-5 (ESV) "These people say the **time** has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord... Yet now **be strong**... **Work**, for I am with you, declares the Lord... My Spirit remains in your midst. **Fear not.**"

I hope you stopped by our It's Time table today to pick up our Journey Guide. Over the next weeks we're inviting you to go on a spiritual journey together with and this is your journey guide. You'll want it to take sermon notes in every Sunday, you'll want it for your daily devotions and for your weekly CG gatherings.



Trans: Over the last 2 weeks, we've heard God's call to consider our ways, to consider our priorities and purpose. Now this week, we'll see that the people of God have heard God's call and are ready to faithfully respond.

Need: Have you heard God's call on your life? For some of you today, it's a call to come to faith in Jesus. You've never responded to the call of salvation. You're still trying to live life according to your own priorities and purpose. I pray that today, you not only hear God's call, but that you respond by saying "Yes. I repent of my sin and trust Jesus Christ to be my Lord and Savior." I pray that happens to you today.

For others, you've answered God's call to come to Jesus. You've trusted Him as your Lord and Savior. But lately, you've been feeling stuck spiritually, you've lost the joy, the fire that you once experienced in Christ. Could it be that Jesus has called you to more? Could it be that you've gotten your priorities out of order and forgotten your true purpose? Think back to the place where you turned back from following Jesus wholeheartedly. That's your stuck place. He asked you to do something and you were afraid. He asked you to give and you held back. He asked you to go and you stayed home.

Trans: Jesus hasn't left you nor forsaken you, but He can't fully bless you and lead you until respond in faithful obedience to His call. That's where the people of God in Haggai were. They had been stuck, but now they're ready to move on with God again!

BODY: In the book of Haggai 1:12-15, the people of God faithfully responded to God's call to rebuild His house. We can faithfully respond to God's call. How can we faithfully respond to God's call? The text gives **three ways** we can faithfully respond to God's call.

Read text: Haggai 1:12-15 (ESV) ¹² Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD. ¹³ Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke to the people with the LORD's message, "I am with you, declares the LORD." ¹⁴ And 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, ¹⁵ on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

WE CAN FAITHFULLY RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL...

1. By obeying God's Word.

EXP: (12) Notice the three ways the people faithfully responded to God's call: They "obeyed" (12), "feared" (12), and "worked" (14). Circle the phrase "obeyed the voice of the Lord." They obeyed the Word God had given them through the hand of Haggai the prophet.

"Remnant" (12) (רֵשָׁת, *š'ērīt*) - remnant, what is left. The returning exiles from Babylonian captivity.

"Obeyed" (12) (שָׁמַע, *šāma*) - to hear, listen to, obey; to listen to, yield to, to obey, be obedient.

"The voice of the LORD" (12) (קוֹל, *qôl*) - voice, of YHWH. "They heard the voice of the Lord by the prophet, very attentively and seriously; and received and regarded it, not as the word of men, but as the word of God; and determined to act according to it." (*Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible*)

"Sent him" (12) (שָׁלַח, *šālah*) - to send. "According to all for which the Lord had sent and commissioned him, or particularly in all that concerned the speedy building of the temple." (*Matthew Poole's Commentary*)

ARG: **Jesus taught that those who hear and obey God's Word are blessed by God.**

Luke 11:28 (NIV) He [Jesus] replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

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Jesus said that just as the Father sent Him, so He sends us!

John 20:21 (NIV) Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

ILL: The Jewish exiles had been disobedient. They put their houses ahead of God's house. They had forsaken their purpose of being the people of His house. As a result, they were experiencing a drought from God.

APP: How do we respond when God calls us to action through His Word? Are we quick to obey, or do we hesitate? Obedience is the first step in aligning with God's will.

During this series, I believe God is telling us that it's time to strengthen our community engagement. We are sent church! We are sent by Jesus! That's why we're going to faithfully respond to give over and above our regular giving to strengthen our outreach. People are hurting and we have the answer in Jesus, but how will they know unless we tell them. We're going to strengthen our community engagement in traditional media (billboards, direct mail, etc.), digital and social media (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram...), High labor/low cost (door hangers, yard signs, t-shirts, bumper stickers...), and events (halloween, easter, kidzfest, whirligig...).

2. By honoring God's name.

EXP: (12) Notice the phrase "the people **feared** the LORD" (12). The people displayed reverence and awe for God, recognizing His holiness and authority. Their fear of the Lord was not terror but a deep respect and submission to Him. They held the name of the LORD (YHWH) in the highest honor.

"Feared" (12) (אָרַע, *yārē*) - to fear, revere, be afraid; to stand in awe of, be awed, reverence, honor, respect. They heard how God was displeased with them and they sought to honor Him by changing their ways. They were in awe of His holiness and power and desired God's presence and provision.

ARG: **Fearing and honoring God are closely related.**

Proverbs 3:7-10 (ESV) ⁷ Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. ⁸ It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. ⁹ Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

ILL: I had the most unexpected call this past week. My former boss from my Eckerd days phoned me. When I first started working for him, I was terrified of him. But now, I just really look up to him and honor him.

APP: Are you awed by God's holiness and moved to repentance and worship? True fear of God leads to transformation. Those who fear God honor God with their wealth. Have you ever given a generous gift to God? Tithing and giving are ways to express your honor of God's name.

3. By working in God's power.

EXP: (13-15) Notice the 3rd way God's people faithfully responded to God's call: They "came and **worked**" (14).

"I am with you" (13) (אֲנִי אִתְּכֶם, *ānī ittchem*) - with, near, together with; with (of relationship); near (of place). YHWH's message to them is this, "I am with you in relationship as your Father, I am near you in this place, you are not alone and you are not abandoned." "All the needs and longings of the creature are summed up in those two words, אֲנִי אִתְּכֶם ... 'I with you.'" (*Barnes*)

"Stirred up" (14) (עוֹרָר, *ūr*) - to stir up, rouse, incite; to be excited, be triumphant, to awake. God awakened them from their selfish slumber, he incited them to action. "Every good impulse and revival of religion is the direct work of God by **His Spirit**." (*Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary*)

"Came" (14) (בֹּא, *bō*) - to come. The people moved into action. They couldn't work from home. ;)

"Worked" (14) (מְלָאכָה, *mēlākā*) - ministry; employment, work. The people responded with their labor.

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"Twenty-fourth day ... sixth month" (15) - On the 24th of the month of Elul (Aug-Sept). This was 23 days after the word of the Lord came to the people ("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").

ARG: **We work, not to earn, but to serve God's call on our lives.**

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

What is the work Jesus has called us to as His church? What's His promise?

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

ILL: Every Sunday morning we gather before the service to pray. I usually pray, "Lord, if you don't show up, nothing happens. So Lord, be present. Show up big. Stir us up!"

APP: Are you stirred up for God? Have you experienced the way He shows up when you serve and work for Him and His kingdom? Are we stepping out in faith to do God's work, trusting that He is with us? When God calls us to a task, He also provides the strength and resources to accomplish it.

As you consider your time, talent, and treasure, have you made yourself available for God's service? We're praying for God to trust us with more resources so that we can work to sharpen our ministries to help the hurting, the broken, those far from God. This will mean more lay volunteers saying yes to service. This will mean hiring more staff to lead our church and to plant more churches!

CONCLUSION: That's why we're taking this spiritual journey together... Will you take our...

IT'S TIME SPIRITUAL JOURNEY COMMITMENT?

- Attend all 8 Sundays of the series and bring your It's Time Journey Guide with you to take notes.
- Do the 6-week (M-F) devotional starting January 13th through February 21st.
- Attend a weekly Community Group to discuss the It's Time Haggai study.
- Pray our It's Time prayer: "Lord, what do You want to do in and through me?"
- Respond to God's leading on **Commitment Sunday, February 16th**, and by faith, make a sacrificial, 3-year financial commitment that is over and above your current giving.

It's time to faithfully to respond to God's call ... will you...

- (1) Obey God's Word?
- (2) Honor God's name?
- (3) Work in God's power?

Let's pray.