

Growth Tools

September 20, 2026
Pastor Greg Stansel

By Faith and Not By Sight
Haggai 2:1–9

REMEMBER: It is easier to discuss these questions in the group if you have thought through them before attending the group.

Checking In

*Anything you want to share from your time in the Word this week?
How can the group be praying for/with you?*

Connecting

What hinders your faith? What feeds your faith?

Study

Point 1: Faith is hindered when we live by sight (2:1–3)

READ: Leviticus 23:33–44; Exodus 40:34; 1 Kings 8:10–11; Ezra 3:12–13

REFLECT: What was the purpose of the Feast of Booths? What significance does the Feast of Booth (or tabernacles) have on your understanding of Haggai 2:1–9? In what sense does Zerubbabel’s temple lack the former glory of Solomon’s temple? What is the response of the people in Ezra 3:12–13?

RESPOND: How does focusing on former glory hinder our faith? How does focusing on comparison hinder our faith? How does focusing on disappointments hinder our faith? Where have you seen hindrances to your faith? How, in those times, do you find yourself living by sight and not by faith?

Point 2: Faith is refocused when we submit to the Lord’s commands (2:4–6)

READ: Joshua 1:1–9; 2 Timothy 1:6, 7

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Point 2: Faith is refocused when we submit to the Lord’s commands (2:4–6)

READ: Joshua 1:1–9; 2 Timothy 1:6, 7

REFLECT: What were some things that Joshua was experiencing that would hinder his faith in entering the promised land? What were some things Timothy would have been experiencing that would have hindered his faith in leading the Ephesian church? What commands does the Lord give to Joshua? How do these commands refocus Joshua's faith?

RESPOND: Why is it important to hear the Lord's commands when our faith is weak? In what ways do the commands of the Lord refocus us when we are struggling to live by faith? How can you practically challenge yourself when your faith is faltering?

Point 3: Faith is reignited when we remember the Lord's promises (2:4-9)

READ: Haggai 2:4-9

REFLECT: What do you learn of God's character in these verses? What are the promises that you see in these verses? How are these verses fulfilled in Jesus? How are these verses fulfilled in the church today?

RESPOND: What are some practical ways you can focus on the Lord's character when your faith is floundering? How will focusing on who the Lord is reignite your faith? What are some promises you can focus on to reignite your faith to fulfill the Great Commission?

Memorizing

"Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the Lord. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the Lord. Work, for I am with you declares the Lord of hosts"
(Haggai 2:4).

Preparing for next week

Read: Haggai 2:10-19

Ask: questions of the text.

Pray: through text, for pastor as he prepares, for your heart to hear, for the congregation to hear, for all of us to be obedient.

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