

Quote: Glorious Ruin—Brokenness precedes usefulness. It just does. Who reaches out to parents who have lost children to drunken driving accidents? Other parents who have lost children to drunken-driving accidents. When we go through something painful and when God breaks us, it makes us both more useful to others and more willing to be used. We are able to empathize and sympathize and lend insight and help and perspective to other people. Take a poll of people you know in ministry, and I guarantee you'll find that some kind of painful experience informed their sense of call. People minister out of their own suffering, not despite it. (Tchividjian)

Quote: Off Script—To paraphrase a bit, God's Word is essentially saying, "Take your eyes off of your limitations and obstacles, stop focusing on survival—focus on God. Lift your heart from discouragement to Divinity. Place your eyes back on the providential. Be confident and strengthened in God, and move forward with action! Stop thinking about what you can't do, and start doing what you can. God's Spirit is with you, and He will accomplish His work by His power, through you."

Conclusion:

Decision Number 9— _____



Emmanuel Baptist Church | Cary Schmidt | 12.1.2013

Be Strong and Work

Allowing Weakness to Show Forth His Strength

Text: Haggai 2

Haggai 2:2-5 "2 Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying, 3 Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing? 4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts: 5 According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not."

Introduction:

1. The _____ of Discouragement

THREE GREAT DANGERS OF DISCOURAGEMENT:

—_____—the people grew apathetic and rationalized their apathy as reasonable, their only option! What could they do?

Haggai 1:2 “2 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD’S house should be built.”

—_____—the work stopped and the house of God was in waste, and by their reason, for good excuse!

Haggai 1:4 “4 Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?”

—_____—God doesn’t intend for survival to be your first priority! He wants to be your first priority, and He will take care of your survival.

Haggai 1:4-7 “4 Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? 5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. 6 Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. 7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.”

2. The _____ of Weakness

—GOD’S _____—the Lord is with you!

Haggai 1:13 “13 Then spake Haggai the LORD’S messenger in the LORD’S message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD.”

—GOD’S _____—the Lord works in spite of you!

Haggai 1:14 “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 Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,”

Zechariah 4:6 “6 ...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”

—GOD’S _____—Get get’s all the credit for any good thing that happens!

Haggai 2:9 “9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Quote: Off Script—“The off script season is simply a time when God’s greater glory is magnified through your greater weakness.

3. The Command to Be _____.

Haggai 2:4, 5 “4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts: 5 According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.”

Zechariah 4:6 “6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”
