

Title: the gift of God
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THE GIFT OF GOD

Ps 23:6

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

Ps 92:13&14

Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.
They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,

God told me that if we build His house, He will build our house.
If you bless God's church, you bless Him and He will bless you.

HAGGAI

BACKGROUND:

- Babylon had conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the temple in 586 BC.
- Haggai came to his task in 520 BC. He joined the exiles who had returned to their homeland in 538 BC to rebuild the temple of the Lord.

2 things that can keep us from making God's passion our passion:

1. SELF FOCUS/WRONG PRIORITIES/EXCUSES

Haggai: The people had become more concerned with building beautiful houses for themselves.

Haggai 1:9

"You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?" says the LORD of hosts. "Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.

Haggai 1:14

So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel... and the spirit of Joshua... 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,

God was not denying houses for the people, He was asking that they prioritise the building of His house and thereby trust Him for the building of theirs.

We need to ask God to stir in us a love for His house.

Is God's house priority to you?

Maybe you feel that you are

- too busy, don't have time
- too young in the Lord, you have nothing to give
- have too many issues/still need to grow in the Lord

None of this should keep you from building God's house, as there is a reward waiting for you that is immeasurable.

2. OUR PAST

- we are discouraged by bad things that happened in the past (you need to forgive yourself)

- we long back to good things in the past (this is what I want to focus on)

Haggai: Some of the older exiles had seen Solomon's temple when they were children, so that no building, however beautiful, could compare with the glory of that former temple.

Haggai 2:4

Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the Lord; 'and be strong, Joshua... and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the Lord, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the Lord of hosts.

Haggai 2:4

"The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former" (We are the temple of God)

- another church (good or bad)
- another worship team (good or bad)

For us now:

Phil 3:13

"...forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead..."

We all have memories of good things in our past

- student life
- good friends
- a good job you had
- previous church experiences

but we need to let go of them if we want to receive God's gifts for now.

Is 43:18&19a)

Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth...

Job 42:12

Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning...

GOD'S GIFT – WHEN YOU MAKE HIS PASSION YOURS

Ps 27:4&5

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

Haggai 2:19

"...but from **this day** I will bless you..."

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

This day?

- Make His house priority
 1. small group – go to GIVE!
 2. one other thing
- Let go of your past (good and bad)