

Day Two - Haggai 1:1

“In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,”

When the children of Israel were admonished to rebuild the temple, the instruction was from the Lord Himself, not from one of their peers. The Lord used Haggai as His spokesperson. Haggai conveyed God's message to the people.

As we seek to rebuild our temple, our direction comes directly from God. We seek His guidance through His Word. The Bible is our blueprint for life. In it, we find all that we need to direct and guide us through everything we encounter. We are the creation. Our Creator has given us the "Owner's Manual." We simply need to read and follow it in every aspect of our lives.

Sometimes that is much easier said than done, isn't it? Remember, according to Philippians 1:6, we are a work in progress, and not just any work, but a *good* work. A work that is being done by the Lord! A work that He will perfect in His own time! Now, that's encouraging!

Notice that the Lord used Haggai to admonish as well as encourage the children of Israel. Haggai received four separate messages to deliver to God's people that are recorded in Scripture.

As you prepare to rebuild the temple, take special time to listen to what God tells you. Communion with God's Holy Spirit will direct you to the way you should go. You must be willing to listen, and then you must be willing to respond.

God may use another individual to help you along the way. This person may not be one who is rebuilding with you, but may be someone that will encourage you as you rebuild, admonish you when needed, but most importantly will continually uplift you in prayer as you work to restore God's dwelling place.

1. Who are some individuals recorded in Scripture that God used to admonish, encourage, and pray for others?

2. Who can God use in your life to help you rebuild your relationship with Him?

WORD OF THE WEEK

We have found it useful to focus each week on a word that helps us as we rebuild our temple. The word for this week is "water."

Read John 4:10-14

“Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

Water is what gives us life, both physically and spiritually. Our bodies are more than 70% water. All living things need water to carry out their life processes. We must remember that it is important to replenish our bodies with at least 6-8 glasses of water each day.

1. As water cleanses our physical bodies of poisonous substances, the living water that Christ offers cleanses us of the spiritual toxin of sin. What areas do you need to be cleansed this week?

Reflection: