

*New Sermon Series: Living By Priority: A Study of Haggai*

3/30/25 “Be Strong,” Haggai 2:1-9, MEV

**INTRODUCTION** Ever discouraged trying to work for God?  
Things fall short of your expectations? (~2 mos after 1<sup>st</sup> msg)

**MAIN IDEA: Keep serving God.** How? Here are 3 things to do.

**I. First, be strong (4a)**

**Strong:** to be firm, courageous, valiant (*Complete World Study OT*)

A. choose to stand firm...*attitude leads to action*

1. in Christ (knowing Him, trusting Him)

**Galatians 6:9, MEV:** And let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not give up.

2. regardless of what it looks like, discouragement

**Zechariah 4:10, NLT:** Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin

B. we must strengthen ourselves in Christ

**Ephesians 6:10, MEV:** Finally, my brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. (**Eph 6:13-17** *armor of God*)

**Zechariah 4:6, MEV:** “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel, saying: Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts.

**ILLUSTRATION:** spiritual attack, jail ministry

**II. Second, work (4b)**

**Work:** make due, fix, deal with; labor, accomplish

A. despite being tired, discouraged, hopeless, wanting to quit

B. we see with human eyes, but God sees outside time...  
purposes, uses, goals

C. do the task that God has assigned to the best of our ability

**Colossians 3:23, MEV:** And whatever you do, do it heartily as for the Lord and not for men

D. because He is with us, helping us (Hebrews 13:5)

1. He is not discouraged or disapproving

2. He is fully willing to accept our best work

3. He is fully able to use our best work

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**III. Third, do not fear (5)**

A. He stands with us (*remains*)...*we are not alone*

B. He will use our work for great good

1. He will shake the nations (*deal with evil*)

**“in a little while”:** God *will* act, in His time (*SFLB, LASB*)

2. nations will come to Jesus, surrendering all to Him...*He owns it all anyway*

**Haggai 2:7, MEV:** 7 And I will shake all nations, and they will come with the wealth of all nations [*to the Desire of All Nations, NKJV*], and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the LORD of Hosts.

**NOTE:** *Desire of All Nations*—Jesus, traditional view, Wiersbe. Charles Wesley wrote “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”: “Come, Desire of nations, come! Fix in us Thy humble home”; J.S. Bach: *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring*.

Geneva Bible 1599; KJV 1611; Bach 1685-1750; Wesley 1707-‘88

3. His glory will be evident to all (9)

**Habakkuk 2:14, MEV:** For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the seas.

4. He will give PEACE (*shalom*, 9)

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**CONCLUSION:**

**ALTAR:**

**Jesu, joy of man's desiring,  
Holy wisdom, love most bright;  
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring  
Soar to uncreated light.  
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,  
With the fire of life impassioned,  
Striving still to truth unknown,  
Soaring, dying round Thy throne.**

**Through the way where hope is guiding,  
Hark, what peaceful music rings;  
Where the flock, in Thee confiding,  
Drink of joy from deathless springs.  
Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure;  
Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.  
Thou dost ever lead Thine own  
In the love of joys unknown.**