

## **Haggai 2:20-23; Zechariah 4:5-14 (New International Version)**

<sup>20</sup> The word of the LORD came to Haggai a second time on the twenty-fourth day of the month:

<sup>21</sup> "Tell Zerubbabel governor of Judah that I am going to shake the heavens and the earth.

<sup>22</sup> I will overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and their drivers; horses and their riders will fall, each by the sword of his brother.

<sup>23</sup> "'On that day,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,' declares the LORD, 'and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you,' declares the LORD Almighty."

<sup>5</sup> He answered, "Do you not know what these are?" "No, my lord," I replied.

<sup>6</sup> So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

<sup>7</sup> "What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of 'God bless it! God bless it!'"

<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me:

<sup>9</sup> "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you.

<sup>10</sup> "Who dares despise the day of small things, since the seven eyes of the LORD that range throughout the earth will rejoice when they see the chosen capstone in the hand of Zerubbabel?"

<sup>11</sup> Then I asked the angel, "What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?"

<sup>12</sup> Again I asked him, "What are these two olive branches beside the two gold pipes that pour out golden oil?"

<sup>13</sup> He replied, "Do you not know what these are?" "No, my lord," I said.

<sup>14</sup> So he said, "These are the two who are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Haggai+2%3A20-23%3B+Zech+4%3A5-14&version=NIV>

Good Morning/Afternoon First Baptist Members and Friends! I greet you this morning with the good news that you are not alone, unless you choose to be alone. God is here and God offers His Spirit to walk with you and guide you through this day and everyday. So I invite you to praise God for the blessings of the Holy Spirit. Praise God that the Holy Spirit is ours for the asking. Praise God that there is One who always knows right from wrong and is willing to guide and direct us. Praise God, that we are not alone.

Our lesson for this morning is the last in the series from Haggai and it incorporates information contained in the books of Nehemiah and Zechariah. The historical backdrop tells us that the Children of Israel, God's chosen people, have returned from 70 years of exile to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem. At the beginning of their return the people were eager to do the work and when the foundation was laid they celebrated. However, when it was time to erect the walls they became discouraged. They let the criticism of their neighbors keep them from doing what God had called them to do. They considered what they could not do alone and failed to appreciate what they could do with God. They listened to voices other than God's. (Does that sound familiar? Like anyone you know?)

Because the people had forgotten that the Spirit of God was with them. Because they had forgotten that **God does not lead you to** what God is not going **to lead you through**. Because they had forgotten to put God first and that everything goes better with God, God speaks to them again through the prophet Zechariah and God says:

*<sup>6</sup> So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.*

That is our focal verse for this time together. Consider this theme:

**WE CANNOT DO IT ALONE**

## SHALL WE PRAY!

Father God we your children come to you in this time of prayer, praise and preaching. We come asking you to help us to see you more clearly, follow you more nearly and love you more dearly. We come because sometimes we are discouraged, sometimes we are depressed and sometimes we are distressed and we know that if we will just be still and know that you are God we will be okay. Help us this day to be still, help us to hear with new ears and speak with new tongues. Abba, I ask that you use the mediations of my heart and the words of my mouth to do and speak what you would have your people to hear. In the name of Jesus the Christ, the One who died that we might be free we pray. Amen and Amen.

## **WE CANNOT DO IT ALONE**

We need to place today's lesson into the context of the other three sermons we have heard this month. First of all we asked the Lord to show us the 21<sup>st</sup> century application for this portion of scripture and we concluded that we needed to view these passages in light of our physical bodies – our spiritual temple, where God wishes to dwell and not this building here on the corner of Orchard and Westwood.

So on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday we talked about **Give Careful Thought to Your Ways**. The key teaching points were a list of blessings we miss because we fail to give careful thought to our ways:

**God's blessings are missed because people procrastinate.**

**God's blessings are missed because people fail to remember God's will, word and ways.**

**God's blessings are missed because we fail to put God's purpose, priorities and plans first.**

That sermon was concluded with the lyrics of Matt Redman's song

the *Heart of Worship*.

*Chorus:*  
*I'm coming back to the heart of worship*  
*And it's all about You,*  
*It's all about You, Jesus*  
*I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it*  
*When it's all about You,*  
*It's all about You, Jesus<sup>2</sup>*

On 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday we considered:

### **THE MOUNTAINS COME TO MAKE ME STRONG!**

We found the major teaching points for the sermon as we explored three mountains in the Bible:

Mount Olivet  
Mount Calvary  
Mount Sinai

We discussed the types of trials, test and tribulations that we may face as we work to rebuild our temples – our bodies and our lives - to please God.

On Mount Olivet was the Garden of Gethsemane and we remembered that it was here that the faith of our Lord and Saviour was tested. I said that when I get to my personal Mount Olivet – when I get to the place where my faith is being tested, my devotion to God is being tried, the troubles and tribulations of serving God have brought me to my knees I will say “I am at Mount Olivet but I trust God to bring me thru.”

As we considered **Mount Calvary** where our Savior, suffered, bled and died we are reminded that our debt of sin has already been paid. Although we may be asked to bear a cross we can say:

I've already been **justified** by the blood – it is like my sin never happened  
I am **sanctified** by the blood – set apart for a plan and a purpose  
I will be **glorified** when Jesus returns.  
I have, I am and I will be – if I keep the faith and never cease to pray.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/mattredman/theheartofworship.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.allgospellyrics.com/?sec=listing&lyricid=13087>

We ended on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday with a look at Mount Sinai. It is at Mount Sinai that the Children of Israel are prepared for kingdom living and we found the parallel for this in the New Testament book of Acts, especially chapters 42-45, as we hear what the church of Jesus the Christ is called to do and be. Our song of remembrance included these lyrics:

For the God on the mountain, is the God in the valley.  
When things go wrong, He'll make them right.  
And the God of the good times  
is still God in the bad times.  
The God of the day is still God in the night.<sup>4</sup>

Then last Sunday, Father's Day I taught

### **THINGS GO BETTER WITH GOD**

Although my message was geared toward the men, young and mature I asked the women to be sure and take notes because the men who may need to hear the message might not be present. The major teaching points were:

- You need to know what the Word of God says before you can live it, teach it and support your wives, sons and daughters.
- You need to be an example in your community, on your job, in your health and country club of a man who knows and fears the Lord.
- You need to speak the truth in love and not repeat what you do not know to be fact.
- Your lives, your language, your lifestyle ought to set you apart from the crowd. Not because you are **all that** but because the God you love and serve is **all that**.
- The girls and women you hang out with ought to be people who are working on their lives, language and lifestyle.
- The young men you call friends ought to be the same.

So here we are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday trying to wrap up a sermon series and be true to the text:

<sup>6</sup> *So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.*

So what is the Lord God saying to us in this verse?

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.songlyrics.com/lynda-randle/god-on-the-mountain-lyrics/#FX9WUIOIIuekebzi.99>

**Not by might** – not by your strength, not by your knowledge, not by your ability to organize, direct and lead – not by might.

**Not by power** – your position, your energy, your authority, your skills

**But By my Spirit – the breath I breathe into you,  
the Comfort I provide  
the guidance I offer  
the intercession when you don't know what to say**

If I had a bit more time I could explain to you that might and power in the Hebrew are almost always attributes given to God. We understand this

**because we sing**

How Great Thou Are - What a Mighty God We Serve – Our God Is  
Awesome

**because we say**

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory

**because we read**

Jesus approached and, breaking the silence, said to them, All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. (AMP)<sup>5</sup>

**because we believe**

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues<sup>[a]</sup> as the Spirit enabled them.<sup>6</sup>

So we know that we cannot do anything for God without God. For it is God that provides the power and the might to do what He has called us to do. So if we are to **Give Careful Thought to Our Ways**, we will have to depend on the Holy Spirit. If we are learn and remember that **The Mountains Come To Make Me Strong**, we will have to depend on the Holy Spirit. If we

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.biblegateway.com/verse/en/Matthew%2028:18>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.biblegateway.com/passages/?search=acts+2&version=NIV>

are going to teach and lead we must teach and lead, as God would have us to do, **Because Things Go Better With God.**

So here we are at the end of a sermon series and we need something to hold it all together. Something to help us remember the kind of relationship God desires to have with us.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;  
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:  
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.  
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.<sup>7</sup>

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;  
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Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.hymnary.org/text/spirit\\_of\\_the\\_living\\_god\\_fall\\_fresh](http://www.hymnary.org/text/spirit_of_the_living_god_fall_fresh)

Perhaps God says to us:

I can turn a gray sky blue  
I can make it rain, whenever I want it to  
I can build a castle from a single grain of sand  
I can make a ship sail on dry land

But my life is incomplete and I'm so blue  
'Cause I can't get next to you<sup>8</sup>

Perhaps God would like to hear us say:

When my way was dark and troubles were near  
Your love provided the light so I could see,  
Just knowing your love was near when times were bad  
Kept the world from closing in on me

I was blessed the day I found you  
I am gonna build my whole world around you  
You are all that matters to me.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.metrolyrics.com/i-cant-get-next-to-you-lyrics-temptations.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/temptations/youremyeverything.html>