



God's Blessings Explained

Haggai: A Wake Up Call for a Sleeping Giant - Part 3 of 3

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Big Idea: Rightly understanding God's blessings will help us avoid unnecessary confusion, discouragement, and disappointment.

Text: Haggai 2:15-23 (ESV)

"Now then, consider from this day onward. Before stone was placed upon stone in the temple of the LORD, how did you fare? When one came to a heap of twenty measures, there were but ten. When one came to the wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were but twenty. I struck you and all the products of your toil with blight and with mildew and with hail, yet you did not turn to me, declares the LORD. Consider from this day onward, from the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month. Since the day that the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid, consider: Is the seed yet in the barn? Indeed, the vine, the fig tree, the pomegranate, and the olive tree have yielded nothing. But from this day on I will bless you." – Haggai 2:15-19 (ESV)

Oftentimes, there is a _____ between when God's people obey and when God's blessings arrive.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. – Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. – Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV)

The word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth, and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms. I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders. And the horses and their riders shall go down, every one by the sword of his brother. On that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, the son of Shealtiel, declares the LORD, and make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you, declares the LORD of hosts." – Haggai 2:20-23 (ESV)

God's blessings are powerful enough to _____ in our lives.

"As surely as I live," declares the LORD, "even if you, Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, were a signet ring on my right hand, I would still pull you off." – Jeremiah 22:24 (NIV)

This is what the LORD says: "Record this man as if childless, a man who will not prosper in his lifetime, for none of his offspring will prosper, none will sit on the throne of David or rule anymore in Judah." – Jeremiah 22:30 (NIV)

This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham:
– Matthew 1:1 (NLT)

After the Babylonian exile: Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud. Abiud was the father of Eliakim. Eliakim was the father of Azor. Azor was the father of Zadok. Zadok was the father of Akim. Akim was the father of Eliud. Eliud was the father of Eleazar. Eleazar was the father of Matthan. Matthan was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah. – Matthew 1:12-16 (NLT)

Curses in our lives can come from generational sin, our own sin, or unknown sources.

You show unfailing love to thousands, but you also bring the consequences of one generation's sin upon the next. You are the great and powerful God, the LORD of Heaven's Armies. – Jeremiah 32:18 (NLT)

People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the LORD. – Proverbs 19:3 (NLT)

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. "Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?" "It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him." – John 9:1-3 (NLT)

What steps can we take so God can break the curses in our lives and bless us?

_____ **in Christ.**

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree" – Galatians 3:13 (ESV)

Be encouraged _____.

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. – Romans 8:1-2 (NLT)

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.
– Romans 8:11 (NLT)

_____ **for the flesh.**

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
– Romans 13:14 (ESV)

_____.

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
– Galatians 6:9 (ESV)