

**Put God First**  
**(The Book of Haggai)**  
**Part 12**

*“<sup>10</sup> On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Haggai: <sup>11</sup> 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Ask the priests what the law says: <sup>12</sup> If a person carries consecrated meat in the fold of his garment, and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, oil or other food, does it become consecrated?' " The priests answered, "No." <sup>13</sup> Then Haggai said, "If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?" "Yes," the priests replied, "it becomes defiled." <sup>14</sup> Then Haggai said, " 'So it is with this people and this nation in my sight,' declares the LORD. 'Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled. <sup>15</sup> " 'Now give careful thought to this from this day on--consider how things were before one stone was laid on another in the LORD's temple. <sup>16</sup> When anyone came to a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten. When anyone went to a wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were only twenty. <sup>17</sup> I struck all the work of your hands with blight, mildew and hail, yet you did not turn to me,' declares the LORD. <sup>18</sup> 'From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid. Give careful thought: <sup>19</sup> Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit.' " 'From this day on I will bless you.'” (Haggai 2:10-19)*

After the people responded to the call of God through His prophet Haggai to rebuild the temple of God and after they were able to overcome their discouragement and would go forward to do the work of God there still more things for God to speak to His people that their lives would be build in God’s will and according to His word.

God promised blessings to His people who underwent repentance. Defile people are entitled for blessings after they repent and renounce their sins. The people who responded to God’s call to rebuild the temple of God they were still in sin or in contact with people who are causing them to sin. The Prophet Haggai in His message to them asked them to go and asked the priest the following questions:-

**1- “If a person carries consecrated meat in the fold of his garment, and that fold touches some bread or stew, some wine, oil or other food, does it become consecrated?”** “The priests answered, “No.” (Haggai 2:12) What he means here that to keep contact and fellowship with holy people who live for God, or engage in service to God that will not make you holy if there is still sin in your life.

**2- “Then Haggai said, “If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?”** “Yes,” the priests replied, “it becomes defiled.” (Haggai 2:13) What you mean here is that if you had determined to follow God and obey Him then there are people, contacts or relationships need to separate yourself from because such contacts or people or relationships and friendships will tempt you to go back and sin against God. Such contacts are sin attractor to your life and will confuse you and deviate you from following God. Do not say, ‘do not worry, I am strong ....’ I tell you the truth I saw many people went back to sin because they are still keeping contacts with people who pull them back to sin: <sup>33</sup> **Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”** <sup>34</sup> **Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God--I say this to your shame.”** (1Corinthians 15:33-34)

*“Then Haggai said, " 'So it is with this people and this nation in my sight,' declares the LORD. 'Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled.’” (Haggai 2:14)* What the word of God is saying here to you that if you continue to live in sin and will continue with people who will lead you to sin then whatever you give to God and offer to Him will not bring blessings into your life.

*“<sup>15</sup> Now give careful thought to this from this day on--consider how things were before one stone was laid on another in the LORD's temple. <sup>16</sup> When anyone came to a heap of twenty measures, there were only ten. When anyone went to a wine vat to draw fifty measures, there were only twenty. <sup>17</sup> I struck all the work of your hands with blight, mildew and hail, yet you did not turn to me,' declares the LORD.” (Haggai 2:15-17)* God calling you to repent and to be cleansed from sin; you did not get what you were hoping for because sin is hindering God’s blessings from reaching you.

Almost one month before Haggai prophecy Zechariah gave the same message to the people and they repented. <sup>4</sup> *In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo: <sup>2</sup> "The LORD was very angry with your forefathers. <sup>3</sup> Therefore tell the people: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the LORD Almighty. <sup>4</sup> Do not be like your forefathers, to whom the earlier prophets proclaimed: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.' But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Where are your forefathers now? And the prophets, do they live forever? <sup>6</sup> But did not my words and my decrees, which I commanded my servants the prophets, overtake your forefathers? "Then they repented and said, 'The LORD Almighty has done to us what our ways and practices deserve, just as he determined to do.’” (Zechariah 1:1-6)* So the message of Haggai that came after one month is just to encourage the people to continuo to abide with holiness and keep separated from the world and from atmospheres and people who lead you to sin.

The message of Zechariah was same message and calling for repentance and to separate yourself not only from sin but from people and contacts and relationships that will pull you back to sin. This all is needed in order that His blessings will flow in your life, <sup>18</sup> *“From this day on, from this twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, give careful thought to the day when the foundation of the LORD's temple was laid. Give careful thought: <sup>19</sup> Is there yet any seed left in the barn? Until now, the vine and the fig tree, the pomegranate and the olive tree have not borne fruit.' " 'From this day on I will bless you.’” (Haggai 2:18-19)*

**My Dear and Beloved:** <sup>9</sup> *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.” (1John 1:9-10)* As you abide with God’s word and repent of your sins, then your life will be rebuild and God’s blessings will flow in your life as you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your encouraging word to me. Lord I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_, and I commit myself to discontinue the following relationships and friendships \_\_\_\_\_. Lord upholds me with your grace and protects me and provide for me to continue to serve you and to rebuild my life according to your plans and will. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*