



Rebuilding What Matters Most

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

August 9, 2026

*"Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: **Consider your ways.**" – Haggai 1:4-5 ESV*

Like Israel, some today are living among the rubble of broken dreams, broken relationships, and maybe broken faith. The good news is this: **God is not intimidated by ruins.** He specializes in restoration. But He always begins in the same place.

God begins with what matters most ...

- I. God Calls us to Consider _____
(Haggai 1:1-7)
Cp. Ps. 139:23-24; Lam. 3:40; 2 Cor. 13:5; James 1:22-25
- II. Misplaced Priorities always leave us _____
(Haggai 1:5-11)
Cp. Matt. 6:19-21, 33; Eccl. 2:10-11; Luke 10:38-42
- III. _____ Must Be Restored Before the _____
Can Continue (Ezra 3:1-6)
Cp. Exodus 20:3-5; John 4:23-24; Rom. 12:1-2; Heb. 13:15-16
- IV. God Supplies the Strength for _____
(Zechariah 4:6-10)
Cp. Phil. 2:13; John 15:4-5; 2 Cor. 12:9; Eph. 3:20

So What ...

In reading Haggai 1, one phrase becomes the recurring refrain ... **"Consider your ways."**

It also becomes a good next step of evaluation for each of us ...

- Consider your ways ... What/who has become your _____?
- Consider your ways ... Why are you still _____?
- Consider your ways ... What are you truly _____?
- Consider your ways ... Whose _____ are you relying on?

Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

Prayer Points in Haggai

Of the 12 books written by minor prophets, nine encourage Israelites to turn from idols to God. Because the Israelites didn't listen, God allowed the Babylonians to conquer Judah. After 70 years in captivity, King Cyrus allowed Israelites to return to their homeland to rebuild the temple. A fraction returned.

Why look at Haggai? The Book of Haggai can inspire meaningful prayers by revealing God's purposes and ways. We can apply these insights Today.

Insights that Reveal How to Pray:

- The Lord called His people to rebuild the place where they met to worship Him—the temple. The backbreaking job was met with constant opposition and discouragement. The Israelites stopped working after 2 years to concentrate on their personal homes and themselves.
 - **PRAYER:** Lord, Today You call US to build "the temple", a place within us built by relationship and obedience to You. The enemy wants to paralyze us so the work will stop. Help us see where our thoughts and actions make us captive. Help us obey You to be set free. Help me consider my ways and Turn wherever Your spirit convicts me to Turn.
- Haggai was the Lord's spokesman to tell His people to '**consider their ways**' [4 X's] and build the temple that He may take pleasure in it and be glorified. He told them their difficulties were brought about by HIM because of their lack of obedience to His call to build the temple. The Lord stirred leaders to encourage work on the house of the Lord.
 - **PRAYER:** Lord, the 16-year halt on the work of the Temple is often attributed to wrong priorities. Some ask, "WHY did the people stop the work You called them to do?" and attribute it to opposition and being overwhelmed. We ask You to stir hearts of leaders within the Church to remind us that You are WITH us. That You are calling us to grow in relationship to You and others by obeying Your commands and principles. That He is the provider of all we need. Your presence helped the work on the temple to be accomplished in five years! Help US, Lord God, to remain faithful to the task of obedience You have called us to in order that Your name be glorified. Help us CONSIDER OUR WAYS. May we get to work, seeking You and being pliable in Your hands. May we be strong, always drawing near to You. May we live without fear.
- **The CHALLENGE:** Our priorities matter. And each choice we make reflects those priorities. Our obedience affects how God chooses to work in the world. When we feel justified not to forgive someone... ..when we allow fear of painful consequences to keep us from obeying...we hinder the work that glorifies God. The story in Haggai should motivate us to humility and action. Pray and obey!



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God begins with what matters most ...

- I. God Calls us to Consider **What Matters Most** (Haggai 1:1-7)
Cp. Ps. 139:23-24; Lam. 3:40; 2 Cor. 13:5; James 1:22-25
- II. Misplaced Priorities always leave us **Empty** (Haggai 1:5-11)
Cp. Matt. 6:19-21, 33; Eccl. 2:10-11; Luke 10:38-42
- III. **Worship** Must Be Restored Before the **Work** Can Continue (Ezra 3:1-6)
Cp. Exodus 20:3-5; John 4:23-24; Rom. 12:1-2; Heb. 13:15-16
- IV. God Supplies the Strength for **What Matters Most** (Zechariah 4:6-10)
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In reading Haggai 1, one phrase becomes the recurring refrain ... **"Consider your ways."**

It also becomes a good next step of evaluation for each of us ...

- Consider your ways ... What/who has become your **priority**?
- Consider your ways ... Why are you still **empty**?
- Consider your ways ... What are you truly **worshipping**?
- Consider your ways ... Whose **strength** are you relying on?

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