

Living unto God By Walking in Truth – By Laurence Torr



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USING KING JAMES VERSION OF THE BIBLE

Today we will look at God calling His people to consider their ways and to focus on building His house, we will also see the benefits of doing what God is showing us, and we will see God love and grace and truth in the book of Haggai, with God lovingly reproofing and correcting His people by instruction through His prophet. We can see the hearts of the people then, and how The apostle Paul warns his leaders and instructs them and how to set the things in order . We will also look at what to look for in leaders, and how leaders and believers should live to today as sons of God being led by the spirit of God.

Lets read Haggai Chapter 1:1-13 and see what we can Learn.

Haggai 1:1-13

King James Version (KJV)

1 In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

2 Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built.

3 Then came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, saying,

4 Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?

5 Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways.

6 Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

7 Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways.

8 Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord.

9 Ye looked for much, and, lo it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the Lord of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

10 Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.

11 And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.

12 Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the Lord.

13 Then spake Haggai the Lord's messenger in the Lord's message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the Lord.

Looking at this record in Haggai 1: 1-13

Though the children of Israel, were under the law we see Gods love and grace here very much and where do we see Gods love and grace in this record? It was in His correction to the people through the prophet Haggai. God through his servant the prophet Haggai spoke to His people pointing out their ways of life and living. Gods people were busy going about building their own house's and putting themselves before the things of God. At this time they were building their own houses, and taking care of their cosy lives, but Gods, temple was being neglected and was not being built, because they were too much focused on their own needs and building their own lives and not God work. God started

by telling them to consider your ways, in other words God was saying think about how you are living, look at your priorities they are not in order.

God lovingly points out to them, what they were doing. God said you have worked hard and sown much but bring in little, you eat, but are not satisfied, you drink but it is never quite enough, you have clothes but it does not keep you warm or satisfy you, and the money or wages that you earn, also does not satisfy you, it is dried up and you wonder where it has gone.

Then we see in verse 8 God through His servant the prophet Haggai, told them what they needed to do to change this. He told them go and get the wood and focus on building my house this is your first priority, this will bless me God says, and I can be happy with this. Why? because God would then be first. It took God's man, the prophet Haggai to tell the people how the things were, it took Gods man to speak up and reprove their wrong ways of doing things.

God has not changed, He needs his ministers today to stand up and say what is right and what is needed, as God leads them by His spirit and shows them. Not in a legalistic way, but by speaking the truth in love why? So that Gods people can be blessed and prosper and that Gods work will be done swiftly. It is not about us building our little empires and great big house's with the best car and everyone doing everything for us it is about doing everything from our hearts with love unto God and in service to others.

To live for God take commitment. God needs to be first priority in everything, before our pleasures and wants, when God is first, He will not only take care of our needs, He will give us abundance, so we can be blessed so as to be a blessing to others, not like we see with these big television ministries and ministers at the top , they're the only one who is prospering. God says in His word there should be equality with all those living unto God from the great to the small.

2 Corinthians 8:14 But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality:

2 Corinthians 8:15 As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.

God told them straight through His prophet Haggai, I (GOD) did blow upon your own efforts, who blew upon their efforts? God did. God wanted them to rely on Him to keep Him first. He was saying look you are not taking care of my business so I am not going to take care of your business what you do will not prosper, Why because they were doing their own thing.

verse 11 God said again through His man the prophet Haggai I (GOD) called for the drought upon land and mountains and the corn and the new wine and the oil, and the ground and cattle and all the works of their hands. God wanted their attention and for them to follow Him, and go to Him for their needs, It the same for us today we are to be led by the spirit of God. relying upon him. and to do the things He places in your heart to do. (Romans 8:14)

On a personal note

When God our Father was calling me to give up my job, to work for Him, God said to me, “you take care of my Business and I will take care of your business”. and God is taking care of me as I look to Him and do what He shows me to do. God is the same yesterday today and forever right? and God is faithful to His word and promises.

God, does not change even if the administrations in which we live in has changed. Our God is a just and righteous God. He is a God of love and light and grace, truth and mercy and we see this here in Haggai. When the people heard, what did they do after God gave them the instruction through His Prophet Haggai? They turned their hearts back to God, got the things in order, and done what God through His servant the prophet Haggai instructed them to do.

Today we are sons of God filled with His spirit within, Christ in Us the hope of glory and in our standing with and before the Father we are always sons of God, that is our relationship to God, He is our daddy and Jesus Christ is our Brother as well as our Lord and head.

God is a God of order and not disorder right? according to my understanding, Gods children under law could lose their connection with God. Today we who have the spirit of God, are always sons even if we blow it. our standing is always sons before Him.

In our living as sons of God, the Father want us to do what He has instructed us to do in the church epistles address to us. His will for our individual lives and in the body of Christ can be carried out swiftly and easy when we are walking by

His spirit, showing forth that new creation in us which is Christ in us, we show this to the world when we put the truths of the word of God in our hearts and live it. Then we are positioning our self to receive all the Father has for us and wants for us and more importantly, that we are taking care of the Fathers business and putting him first. Reaching out to those lost ones preaching and teaching the good news of Christ and what the Father has made available to the world. In our standing we are always sons but in our living and service to God, we are his servants, I will explain.

Paul starts out in Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant. in the Greek servant means doulos it means servant or slave. The Old Testament commanded that slaves who were fellow Israelites be released every seven years (Deuteronomy 15:12-17) If a slave did not want to be freed, he became a bond slave, a slave serving willingly. This was unique to Israel. In our service to God from a willing and free heart thankful for what He has done for us through Jesus Christ. and called as believers and leaders our hearts and service to God can be that of a doulos.

God wants us to live unto Him not out of fear but out of love we have son ship now and we see and know the Fathers love for us in that God having sent his one and only son our Lord Jesus Christ, to pay the full price for our salvation our redemption, we responded out of a heart of love and thankfulness not with eye services as men pleasers but in singleness of heart unto God.

There is not a lot of difference from Haggai's day to our day, in the respect of that people are looking out for themselves. There are those that are serving out of love unto God, and there are those serving God out of fear base thinking which comes through wrong doctrine, and there are those who want to look great instead of being humble, and serving others and there are some doing it for money or to get people to follow them or both. The Apostle Paul warns the believers about this in the book of Acts

Acts 20:26-30 26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Paul is talking to the leaders, pointing out to them that God, is the one that has made them overseers (Leaders) and a leaders job before God, is to feed His people, not fleece them of their money or lead them astray, Paul told them to take heed which means give attendance to yourself first and the people you are overseeing. to feed them. Feed them what? The sound wholesome words of the word of God. He warns that after he has left grievous wolves those wolves dressed up in sheep clothing, would come amongst them not sparing the flock and even from their own people, men will arise speaking perverse things (distorted or misinterpreted doctrine) to draw away disciples after them.

Paul also warns Titus. Paul left Titus in Crete to set in order the things that were wanting or absent pointing out what qualities should be seen and lived by the those who were leaders or wanting to be leaders. Paul tells Titus what good qualities a leader must show himself to have and then points out the things the leader should not have or be showing in their lives. You can read the first chapter of Titus and also Paul points this out to Timothy also. 1 Timothy 3:3,8, Titus 1:7 that a leader should not be “greedy” for money or gain or “given” to money or gain.

we will look at Titus 1:10 – 12

Titus 1:10-11 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake.

12 One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, the Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

In verse 10, vain talkers means, senseless or mischievous. Deceivers, means, mind misleaders or seducer.

Verse 11 whose mouth must be stopped means, to silence, subvert means overthrow and filthy lucre is unclean gain, base profit, filthy riches (money)

[Aramaic Bible in Plain English](#) of Titus 1:10-12

Verse 10, For there are men who are not submissive and their words are empty; they deceive the minds of people, especially those who are of the circumcision, Verse 11 Those whose mouths must be stopped up, for they destroy many households and teach what is not right for the sake of filthy riches. verse 12 One man among them, their own Prophet said, “The children of Crete are always liars, wicked beasts and idle bellies.”

Leaders like Haggai and Paul, Titus and Timothy for examples were the ones that set in order and overseen that the things were right, instructing by sound doctrine, reproving when not believing rightly, and correcting the believers which got the believers back to believing rightly, so that those men or women of God were be fully equipped unto all Good works (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and In Ephesians 4:11-12 Gift ministers which are Leaders are for perfecting or completely furnishing of the saints for the edifying – Building up of the believers so the saints (believers) can carry out the work of the ministry, which is the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18).

God always look at the heart and God knows your heart for Him. God loves you, no matter what, Here is a question? does not God love the whole world? The answer is yes. God wants us to have fruit and that our fruit should remain and become strong like us, there is no need for worry and fear, for God has not given you a spirit of fear, we serve God from a free heart, if we really want to see fruit then we do need a balance walk of grace and truth, by not living unto ourselves and not ruling over others like task masters being legalistic, but speaking the truth in love.

Grace without truth is not grace and grace is not a licence to live our lives how we want to. but Grace empowers us to do what truth demands of us.

We follow God from a free heart, if we mess up we have forgiveness with God. Jesus Christ paid and brought our righteousness with God, we have eternal life, we are sealed until the day of redemption when Christ comes back. We won't lose our salvation. but if we really want to be good ministers and believers then we need to serve God by serving others in truth and in love and show them the truths of the word living in our lives and not just nice words spoken. Grace without truth is not grace. We righteous, justified, and sanctified, and redeem, but ask yourselves this question,

I am I living righteously?, am I living sanctified?, am I living as the redeemed of the Lord?

We need to instruct what God says from His word and as God leads us by His spirit and it needs to be living and real in our lives so the ones following has the leader and believers great example (11 Timothy 3:16-17).

We have to listen to what God says not what men says or an organisations says. God wants us to know the truth. We are thankful for the leaders in the body of Christ for they are God's gift to the body to build up the saints. But every believer can and should rightly divide this word for themselves. (2 Timothy 2:15) By doing this you can work out your own salvation,

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

YOU CAN DO with GOD IN CHRIST IN YOU, you can rightly divide His word, as you desire to learn and know Gods word. God will teach you and lead you by the spirit the spirit of God which leads you into all truth.

John 16:13-15 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

When you know the truth it will set you free, you will not be tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

Ephesians 4:14-15 14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

God wants you in the know, and to know His truth. The Father does not want you just to be saved but to come unto a knowledge of the truth. God want many leaders to rise up to lead His people but you need to know Gods word and you need to be led by the spirit of God.

He has filled us all with the same spirit and measure of faith. you can go as far with God as you want to go, your free to live unto Him, you have be called unto liberty only use not your liberty to please yourself.

Galatians_5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

similar to the guys in Haggai.

God wants us to have a proper balance, and is showing this from His word to us and as we begin, God helps us and shows us what to do, Just like he helped and showed the children of Israel what to do through his Prophets Haggai under law, Again grace without truth is not grace. there is a conduct for leaders and believers alike and as we put the truths of the word of God in our hearts and apply the word in our living we will be on fire and set apart in our living. We have seen in the book of Ephesians we are saved by grace not by works, meaning the works of the old testament law, Ephesians is address to the faithful believers in Christ and God shows by Apostle Paul in Ephesians chapters 4 and 5 to put of the old man nature and put on the new man, to walk (live) in Love. to walk (live) in light and to walk (live) exactly or diligently. See (Ephesians 2:10) (Ephesians 5:2,8,15)

The Church Epistles which are address to the born again believer today, are filled with exhortation on how we should walk (live) note the following scriptures, The word “walk” in all of these scriptures I have mentioned is the Greek word “PERIPATEO,” translated “walk” here, means “to tread all around, i.e. walk at large...figuratively, to live, deport oneself, follow” The figurative meaning is what Paul was referring to here. He was speaking of living by, conducting our actions according to, and following the leading of the spirit of God.

Romans 6:4

King James Version (KJV)

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk (live) in newness of life.

Romans 8:4

King James Version (KJV)

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk (live) not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 13:13

King James Version (KJV)

13 Let us walk (live) honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

1 Corinthians 3:3

King James Version (KJV)

3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk (live) as men?

2 Corinthians 5:7

King James Version (KJV)

7 (For we walk (live) by faith, not by sight:)

2 Corinthians 10:3

King James Version (KJV)

3 For though we walk (live) in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

Galatians 5:16

King James Version (KJV)

16 This I say then, Walk (live) in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:25

King James Version (KJV)

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:10

King James Version (KJV)

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk (live) in them.

Philippians 3:17-18

King James Version (KJV)

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk (live) so as ye have us for an ensample.

18 (For many walk, (live) of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

Colossians 1:10

King James Version (KJV)

10 That ye might walk (live) worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Colossians 2:6

King James Version (KJV)

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk (live) ye in him:

1 Thessalonians 2:12

King James Version (KJV)

12 That ye would walk (live) worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 4:1

King James Version (KJV)

4 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk (live) and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

1 Thessalonians 4:12

King James Version (KJV)

12 That ye may walk (live) honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

2 Thessalonians 3:11

King James Version (KJV)

11 For we hear that there are some which walk (live) among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

1 John 1:6-7

King James Version (KJV)

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk (live) in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we walk (live) in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 2:6

King James Version (KJV)

6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk (live), even as he walked (live).

1 John 2:11

King James Version (KJV)

11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh (live) in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

2 John 1:4

King James Version (KJV)

4 I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking (live) in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

3 John 1:3-4

King James Version (KJV)

3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest (live) in the truth.

4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk (live) in truth.

You are Gods workmanship created In Christ Jesus unto good works. which God has before prepared in advance that we should live in them. I pray this little study has been a blessing to you.

Have a blessed day

Laurence