



## **DEVOTION:** August 6

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### *Consider Your Wealth*

People were working harder than ever before but with very little to show for it.

The results of their labors offered them nothing but dissatisfaction and an insufficient supply of income for their lives. It appeared that the people were earning sufficient wages but due to “holes in their wallets” there was never enough to live on. The opening sentences sound like a description of life today, but it is actually a description of the people of Haggai’s day.

*“...Consider your ways! You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes.” **Haggai 1:5-6***

Believers today need to consider our ways concerning wealth. Far too many of us are working long hours and in many cases, multiple jobs, in an effort to accumulate wealth. However, when the dust settles:

- Many are having difficulty showing any gains in their bank accounts.
- Many are struggling to make ends meet.
- Many are finding little if any contentment and satisfaction.

The results of our actions are often dependent upon the choices we make. Many do not find satisfaction in the accumulation of wealth because they are not including God in their endeavors. Others are poor managers of what God provides and are not investing in the Lord’s work with the provisions the Lord provides.

We need to learn to make godly choices concerning our wealth and income.

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## **SCRIPTURES**

Haggai 1:5-6



**DEVOTION:** August 13

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## *Consider Your Worship*

The place of worship had become a shambles.

The people of God allowed the Lord's House to deteriorate and crumble while the people built their own houses and bank accounts. The Lord was not satisfied with their decision to put personal endeavors ahead of His.

Could the above sentences be said of the place where you worship? Does God have first priority in your life?

The prophet Haggai said it this way to the people of his day! *"...Consider your ways! Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified, says the Lord. "...Once more in a little while... I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts."* (Haggai 1:7-8; 2:6-7)

As Christians, we need to come to a realization today: Only God satisfies! When our priorities don't include worshiping God, our priorities have ceased to be priorities and have become a distraction from giving God first place in our lives.

One clear way of seeing whether God is your first priority is by what you are doing with your financial resources.

When we put God first in our lives and worship Him, we cannot help but give to His work! When we do our part in supporting His work, He will pour out His blessings on His work.

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## **SCRIPTURES**

Haggai 1:7-8; 2:6-7



**DEVOTION:** August 20

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## *Consider Your Witness*

A person's obedience and reverence for God tells a great deal about him.

Regardless of the times, it is difficult to find people living in obedience to God. The prophet Haggai challenged the people of his day to be obedient and show reverence for God.

*"The Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, 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 showed reverence for the Lord." (Haggai 1:12)*

Today, it is time for believers to obey the voice of the Lord and show reverence for the Lord. Life lived in submission to God offers blessings to individuals, the church, and the kingdom of God. Christians can truly impact the Kingdom of God through faithful stewardship.

Haggai 2:6-8, *"Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. I will shake all the nations, and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine."*

2 Corinthians 9:6, *"Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."*

Does your lifestyle show obedience and reverence for God?

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## **SCRIPTURES**

Haggai 1:12; 2:6-8; 2 Corinthians 9:6



## **DEVOTION:** August 27

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### *Why Tithe?*

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#### **THE OLD TESTAMENT TEACHES IT.**

*"The tithe...is the Lord's." (Leviticus 27:30)*

*"The tithe...is holy unto the Lord." (Leviticus 27:32)*

*"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse." (Malachi 3:10)*

The Old Testament emphasized tithing as God's basic plan for giving. It was to contribute to the spiritual development of the individual and Israel as a nation. It was a reminder that God is owner of all.

#### **THE NEW TESTAMENT EXPANDS IT.**

*"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

The New Testament expanded tithing to include all a believer has and is. Christ is Lord of all! The New Testament speaks forcefully about Christian attitudes and worthy motives in giving. The tithe is a beginning point and the model for developing the grace of Christian giving.

*"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." (Matthew 23:23)*

#### **THE NEED FOR MINISTRIES REQUIRES IT.**

*"And all that believed...sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need." (Acts 2:44-45)*

Your gifts make possible the ministries of your church. We link hands with other concerned Christians to share Christ in positive and practical expressions of concern. The spiritual needs of people call for our faithful giving.

*"But if a man has enough to live on, and yet when he sees his brother in need shuts up his heart against him, how can it be said that the divine love dwells in him?" (1 John 3:17 NEB)*

#### **WILL YOUR LOVE BE GREAT ENOUGH TO DO IT?**

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#### **SCRIPTURES**

Leviticus 27:30, 32; Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Matthew 23:23; Acts 2:44-45; 1 John 3:17