

CONSIDER YOUR WAYS

Consider Your Dependency On God To Be Able To Build

I. **Haggai 2:1-9 - The people have repented, they have heard a word from the Lord which has caused them to dream again and they have received a stirring from the Spirit.**

Even though they had a sovereign call filled with supernatural confirmation they were beginning to wrestle against doubts and fears - verse 3

A. **Verse 4 - Experiences contain not only blessing but also a call.**

1. Experiences are not just to make us feel good but to equip us for ministry.
2. **The Holy Spirit isn't for personal blessing but for battling.**
3. To many of us who are eager to remove our shoes to stand on Holy ground never get around to putting them back on to walk out the task that was assigned to us.

B. **But these fears and doubting was beginning to force them to be dependent on the Lord two areas.**

1. They were going to have to depend on both the Spirit & Supplies of the Lord.
 - a. **Confronted anew with their Destiny they weren't sure they were ready for it. Verse 4 - "take courage."**
 - They were probably still remembering their first attempt
 - **They were forming picture of themselves trying to obey & failing.**
 - They were beginning to catalog all their limitations to prove that God had chosen the wrong people.
 - b. **The Lord views our failures in a redemptive way, He allows our enemies to gain victory for a season. 2Corinthians 12:7 -10**

C. In trying to describe grace Paul found the economy of language sadly lacking.

1. **Ephesians 2:7 - "In order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace."**
2. God gives us "*Thorns that help.*"
 - a. **Paul identifies a problem that all of us face after God begins to do something significant in our lives.**
 - b. We start leaning on what God does instead of on the One doing it.

3. God places this thorn that helps in the hand of someone from the enemies camp.

- a. Satan has to get permission to do anything to you.
- b. God has the power to work all things together for good. (Baking a Cake)**

4. Thorns make you aware of your need for God

- a. We try and remove the thorn instead of finding the Grace**
- b. It's our place of weakness that God gains access to our lives
- c. Helplessness, weakness, need, and emptiness are good places to be in.**

"Because of the extravagance of those revelations, and so I wouldn't get a big head, I was given the gift of a handicap to keep me in constant touch with my limitations. Satan's angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees. No danger then of walking around high and mighty! At first I didn't think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, and then He told me, 'My grace is enough; it's all you need, My strength comes into its own in your weakness.' Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen, I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size, abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks, I just let Christ take over. And so the weaker I am the stronger I become."

II. Dependence On God means that we are Poor Enough To Receive

A. Matthew 5:3 - "*Blessed are those who sense spiritual poverty for the kingdom of God Is theirs.*" (Berean). This first beatitude is the key that unlocks the riches of grace.

1. Recently I went through a season where I began to evaluate my Christian The blessing of my natural life contributed to the undoing of my spiritual life.

- a. When I first got saved I was poverty stricken in every area of my life**
- b. But now I'm 29 years down the road and God has enriched me in every way.
 - **I don't seek Him as much because I don't need Him as much.**
 - Instead of pressing into his knowledge, I press into mine.

c. As God allows us to progress, He is relegated to a smaller and smaller place

2. It's so easy to do the stuff God has taught you how to do and leave Him it out of

- a. The mountain dew commercial - "Know that, been there, done that."**
- b. 2 Chronicles 26:1-5 & 15-16 - Jessica & Amber
- c. Maintaining a sense of Spiritual poverty in the midst of an abundant blessing.**

B. Grace is defined by our weakness never by our strength.

1. An example of this can be found in 2 Chronicles 20:12.

- a. This statement isn't entirely true, if you read in Chapter 17.**

- b. In the past God had used this army to defeat many of the King's enemies.
 - c. **Now, in chapter 20 a new enemy had appeared, but Jehoshaphat knew better to depend on the successes of yesterday.**
 - 1) He didn't presume that just because God had helped him yesterday that He would do the same today.
 - 2) **He knew that the battle was not his but the Lord's.**
 - 3) That it didn't matter how big his army was, if God wasn't involved they were doomed to fail.
 - 4) **That the power for victory didn't come from his military but it came from his Messiah.**
 - d. Because of not depending on the old, God did something new.
 - 1) **Instead of defeating this enemy with a sword, the Lord used a song.**
 - 2) This King was able to maintain a sense of Spiritual poverty in the midst of an abundant blessing.
2. **Isaiah 33:21-24 - A river where no boats with oars are allowed.**
- a. In this place no human effort is allowed.
 - b. **What God did yesterday, becomes an oar when we try to use it today.**
 - c. Yesterday's success was a result of God's power moving us from defeat to victory, from hurt to healing, and from bondage to liberty.
 - d. **God won't allow us to use what He did yesterday as an oar to get somewhere today.**
 - d. **This place where the majestic One:**
 - 1) Is a place where you forget about what you can do, and give yourself to the river of what He can do.
 - 2) **It's a place where you forget about what you have, and give yourself to the river of what He has.**
 - 3) It's a place where you forget about the old, and give yourself to the river of the new.
 - 4) **It's place where you forget about what happen yesterday, and give yourself to the river of what He wants to do today.**