



REBUILDING THE CHURCH

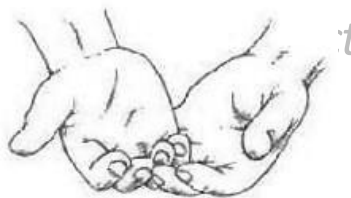
HAGGAI STUDY



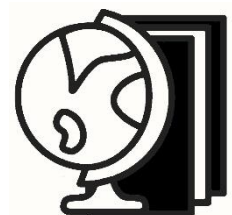
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The 4-Stage Growth Development for Revitalizing a Church

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|-----------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1. Pioneer – Design a Biblical Foundation... | | Haggai 1:1-15 |
| a. Realign with Scripture... | OT Summary | 1:1-4 |
| b. Renew our Minds | Clarify | 1:5-11 |
| c. Redirect our Hearts; | Align | 1:12-15 |
| 2. Parent – Structure a Vision... | | Haggai 2:1-9 |
| a. Reconstruct our Plan | | 2:1-4 |
| b. Reform our Tradition | | 2:5 |
| c. Replant the Missional Mandate | | 2:6-9 |
| 3. Partner – Develop a Strategy... | | Haggai 2:10-23 |
| a. Recommit to the Great Commandment | | 2:10-19 |
| b. Reinstitute Discipleship | | 2:20-23 |
| c. Rebuild our Process | Movement | Deuteronomy 6:5-7 |
| 4. Participant – Expand Out... | | Acts 1 & 2 |
| a. Recycle our Resources | Focus | 1:4-26 |
| d. Replicate the Biblical Church | | 2:14-36 |
| b. Repeat the Model to Plant Churches | | 2:37-47 |

What is our Vision Statement for the Church?

Our Vision statement should line up with scripture, encourage the fellowship of believers, and connect to our culture.

- A SIMPLE CHURCH is a congregation designed around a straightforward and strategic process that moves people through the stages of spiritual growth.
- Spiritual growth, which is sanctification, is the process of the believer becoming more and more like Christ.
Clarity, Alignment, Movement, Focus

What are some things involved to move people through the stages of spiritual growth?

CLARITY – the ability of the process to be communicated and understood by the people.

ALIGNMENT – the arrangement of all ministries and staff around the same simple process.

MOVEMENT – the sub sequential steps in the process that cause people to move toward greater areas of commitment.

FOCUS – the commitment to abandon everything that falls outside the simple ministry process.



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**BUILDING A BIBLICAL FOUNDATION:
(PART 1 OF REBUILDING THE CHURCH)
Haggai 1:1-5**

**January 6-20, 2019
Pastor Trevor Cooper**

CLARITY

Church work is people business. Our investment is people, our focus is people. We help move people through the stages of spiritual growth. Why does our process need clarity? **CLARITY – the ability of the process to be COMMUNICATED and UNDERSTOOD by the people. CLARITY – What should be “communicated” and “understood” about who we are?** Before we start plowing into a community with a strategy or plan, we need to consider the group of people into which we are being sent. It is vital that we have a vision of the people to whom God has sent us and know what God is doing among the people of the community where you have been called.

1. **Clarity** helps us to have a more direct approach at what we do here at Church.
2. **Clarity** gives us guidance, goals, focus, and puts our attention to simply realize the definition of Church.
3. **Clarity** enables other people to define “Church” simpler and easier to those who has never met us or does not know what we are about.

The best way to bring clarity is through God's Word... Do we understand clearly what God is doing?

SUMMARY – Thread of the Gospel

- In the beginning God existed and Only God, His thought of creation; thoughts of us...
- Heavens and the Earth were created;
- every living thing including Adam and Eve
- God gives them commands and laws for living; God's presence is with them in the Garden
- People hear God's laws and don't like it & rebel
- People do all the things that God hates, trampling over
- In Gen. 6, God floods the earth killing everyone. He found only one man pursuing God, Noah
- God sends a Rainbow of a promise; but everyone starts rebelling again; God's presence is made known
- Gen. 11 people are scattered across the earth making up their own laws, religions and gods
- God blesses Abram: making Him into a nation
- God reveals to other nations who He is by the work, words, and ways of Israel
- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob who then has 12 sons.
- Israel is enslaved by the nation of Egypt; Moses Ark of the covenant known as the presence of God,
- 10 Commands; Wilderness; headed to the Promised land & whole generation died
- Joshua brings the people to the Promised Land until the conquering of Babylon “In the land for 70yrs captive then be release” – the Prophet Jeremiah.
- Israel demands a human king instead of God; King Saul – David – Solomon (builds 1st temple)
- Division of Israel South K. of Israel (Reaboam) and the Northern Kingdom of Israel (Jeraboam);
- North – bad kings wandered into sin again
- 722 BC Assyrians come and attack NK.
- The SK reign of Hezekiah; Babylonians attacks in 586 BC
- Persians attack under the reign of King Cyrus, allows the governor Zerubbabel and high priest Joshua to lead them back to the land in 538 BC

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- After Cyrus, Artaxexes – orders the work of rebuilding the temple be stopped; comes King Darius, which this is where we pick up the story of Haggai.
- God moved the King's heart! READ Ezra 1:1-3; 4:4-7

READ, Haggai 1:1-15

I. **We Need to BUILD on a BIBLICAL Foundation.**

In verse one we can understand what God is doing with the people of Israel as He brings them out of captivity and back to Jerusalem by using only the prepositions) IN = SETTING – 2nd Year of Darius; OF = SOURCE – Word of The Lord; TO = SERVANT – Zerubbabel “to the people”; THROUGH = SERVER – Haggai the prophet. Haggai's message begins in verse 2 to Israel. God brought them back; gave them provision; but the temple has not been rebuilt. Why was Israel in this mindset of leaving the house of the Lord in ruins in the first place? What spurred this on? Why were they saying these things? The original temple was destroyed in 586 BC, and they may have falsely reasoned that they should not start building the new temple until 516 BC. Such excuses showed that they were not pursuing God's kingdom and righteousness. Persian King forbid them from building the Temple, yet Haggai understood the 'house of the Lord' was the dwelling place of God's special presence with His people. 1 Kings 8:27-30; 1 Corinthians 3:16

First, We Need to REALIGN with Scripture (v 1) This message didn't come from Haggai, the Word of the Lord came by/through Haggai to the people. This is how God speaks to people! God will speak to you by/through others, to you by/through life, to you by/through hardship; [of the Lord; by/through the prophet; to the people; in the 2nd year] So, this is not just a history lesson today, but God's Word is designed to speak to specific situations. His Word is living and active like the very breath that you and I breathe. If there is anything that will come out of my mouth that helps you, know it came by/through me from the Lord. Because there is nothing of good substance that I can offer you as a Pastor or as a friend; everything good comes from the Lord above. What is God saying about the direction of this church? What is God saying about the direction of your life? **Any process that does not START with God ENDS in disappointment.** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33 The problem was not to the rebuilding itself, but to the timing of it in the midst of the people's bad economy, false religion, and dependency upon a foreign king) READ, Acts 4:18-20

Have you searched online for the new Rainbow OPTX Sunglasses? These glasses apparently help you gain a better perspective on life based on color. We are paying for a better life!!!! What is your life based on? It usually has something to do with your roots, foundation, or another word for it, your worldview. Your ways or worldview includes how you see God, yourself, and others. It's how you view your past, your present, and future. Your worldview includes how you see romance, money, time, and how you see good and evil, problems and pressures. **Is your worldview defined through the lens of SCRIPTURE, CULTURE or SELF?** Ed Stetzer says, “Part of being a missional church is to recognize that we are to go into a culture, engage the people of that culture, and plant a biblically faithful church for those people, all the while acknowledging that culture matters in the way we do ministry.” If we want to reach people for Christ, we must be willing to change our ways by rebuilding a Biblical Foundation and Worldview that speaks with clarity within the culture. Put God first in your lives and everything else will be taken care of; and we will be able to know the Will of God for this church and for your life.

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faithful church for those people, all the while acknowledging that culture matters in the way we do ministry." If we want to reach people for Christ, we must be willing to change our ways by rebuilding a Biblical Foundation and Worldview that speaks with clarity within the culture. Are we Listening to God? ... What have I said? ...my words reveal what/who I trust the most.

Second, We Need a RENEWAL of our Mind (v. 2-11)

The people were living in luxury but having nothing to do with the rebuilding of the temple. "It's not time" was their response. They were deciding it's okay to dwell in the land God gave them without God. Haggai is saying that "progress is more than just effort. Progress is effort in the right direction."

We may have Financial SUCCESS without God but with no SIGNIFICANCE. God interrupts their PROGRESS to remind them of their PRIORITIES. God would rather you go through a season of FRUSTRATION than a lifetime built on the wrong FOUNDATION.

Are we obeying God? What have I done? ...my actions reveal what I believe. *Genuine repentance [faith] is inseparably linked to doing [good works]. Matthew 5:16 Are you all in? The Lord's call to 'Consider your ways' caused the people to respond in repentance & obedience. This 2nd message of Haggai "I am with you" further stirred the Jews to action.

READ, Philippians 2:14-16 (Understanding Pastor's convictions and needing a renewal of the mind) "Consider your ways." When we verse 2-5, we see the people were living in luxury but having nothing to do with the rebuilding of the temple. "It's not time" was their response. While God's response was kind of sarcastic because of the hypocrisy and double standard that they are willing to compromise the calling and commands of the Lord for what is best for what we want. They were deciding it's okay to dwell in the land God gave them without God. Haggai is saying that "progress is more than just effort. Progress is effort in the right direction." **We may have Financial SUCCESS without God but with no SIGNIFICANCE.** When God saw that the people were building their own house, he didn't mind the fact they were busy making it nice, having a nice life with nice things. God did mind that the people lost the sense of priority. When we say YES to 1 thing, we are saying NO to other things. Do what matters most! They put God's work aside, so they can pursue their own lives. "Consider your ways." (v. 5-6) Hollow harvest; hollow success, hollow produce; They were busy building their own houses, own dreams, future, lives; they continued to neglect the dwelling presence of the Lord. Why am I doing so much and receiving so little? God is in charge of the harvest! We can do everything in our human strength to guarantee a happy life, but we can't control nor guarantee the outcome.

READ, v 6-11 – There was great famine over the land; a drought that God "called" in verse 11. Why? In verse 9. It wasn't the devil... Give God credit! **God interrupts their PROGRESS to remind them of their PRIORITIES.** When our fun or the joy in something we once had is gone caused by something bad. When it may be God as the one taking that fun or joy out of your life that is keeping you from your calling and purpose. God was protecting the people and not punishing them; by reminding them of the SOURCE that supplies all their needs. (cf Genesis 3:22-24; drove out the man) **God would rather you go through a season of FRUSTRATION than a lifetime built on the wrong FOUNDATION.** My dreams and my plans must be secondary to God's dreams and plans. This is what it means to make Jesus Lord: that we are willing to put Him, His ministry, His work first before my own. Who are we as a person? Who are we as a Church? Whose are we? Our minds and hearts will be transformed when we obey the voice of the Lord.

Haggai 1:12-15

We must figure out who we are before we figure out what we must do. (ex: going to the gym doesn't change your health, but only having a good plan and determination to change your health when you're at the gym)

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Third, We Need to REDIRECT our Heart. (v 12-15)

Do we love what God loves? Are you all in? We must be a people who... **PRACTICE REPENTANCE** (v. 12) The Greek terminology for repent is the word metanoéo, meaning to change one's mind or purpose. Repentance isn't just asking for forgiveness; it's actively choosing to say no to a specific sin, confessing the sin, and leaving it behind. [to repent] - refers to turn from SIN and turns to GOD. Such change involves more than fearing the consequences of God's judgment. **PARTNER TOGETHER** (v. 13-14a) The people were oppressed by discouragement from without and famine from within. The Lord's responded to their genuine repentance assuring them of His presence with them. Here, God energizes the people through His Word to carry on the work of rebuilding the temple. The Spirit of God still moves in the hearts and He is with us! **PARTICIPATE in God's WORK** (v. 14b) ¹⁴ The Lord stirred up the hearts of Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people to obey the Word of the Lord. 3pt Sermon v7-8: Go up the mountain, bring wood, rebuild the temple. They GOT TO WORK!

By putting God first, Christ is honored in their worship and they would be blessed in the secondary matters of life. Are you all in? Matt Chandler says in his book called The Explicit Gospel, "The idolatry that exists in man's heart always wants to lead him away from his Savior and back to self-reliance no matter how pitiful that self-reliance is or how many times it has betrayed him." Spend some time with God right now and confess to God what sins are in your life. Make this a daily task that you do with God. Omission/Commission! What is it that God has told you to do, you haven't done it? Come to Him with a heart of repentance. And trust in His forgiveness. 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

This helps determine what kind of disciple we want to produce in our church. In this community in which we live in, is there much visible unity among genuine believers? What kind of visible evidence is there of the true nature of the invisible church? What is the spiritual service required of every Christian at First Baptist Church Cypress? (Go make disciples, baptize, and teach all things of Christ) What kind of disciple of Christ do we want to produce at FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH? What does it scripturally mean to be a disciple of Christ?

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