

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following questions help us engage with the sermon, music, and liturgy in this morning's worship service, and may be useful during personal devotions, group studies, and family worship.

1. Haggai's audience looked at the small, unimpressive temple and asked, "Is this it?" When have you looked at your own spiritual life or church and thought the same? What emotions or assumptions drive that feeling?
2. Why do we tend to measure God's presence and blessing by visible success or size? How can faith reshape our sense of what "glory" looks like?
3. God tells His people to "be strong and work...for I am with you." What's the difference between "trying harder" and "working because God is with you"?
4. Haggai connects the Spirit's presence with the power to act. In your day to day life, what would it look like to actually believe the Holy Spirit lives and works in you?
5. Alec Motyer said, "Despondency says, 'I can't, therefore I won't.' Faith says, 'I can't, but He can, so I will.'" Where do you most need to replace "I can't" with "He can"?
6. The promise of a "greater glory" (v. 9) gave Israel reason to keep building. How does the hope of Christ's final temple (Rev. 21-22) change how you view the small, ordinary work you do now? Are their elements of your service that feel irrelevant?
7. Why do you think many Christians lose sight of the big, redemptive picture of what God is building? What practices help you keep it alive?
8. Jesus is the true temple who was torn down so that we could be God's dwelling place. How does His willingness to enter apparent weakness and failure encourage you when you feel your own work is small or unseen?