



## THE BLESSING

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January 25, 2015

*Haggai 2: 10-23*

The Blessing of God:

Why Do We Need God's Blessing? (Haggai 2:10-17)

In our spiritual lives, it's a lot easier to get dirty than it is to get clean.

Life works exponentially better when God is for us not against us.

How Can We Experience God's Blessing? (Haggai 2:18-19)

Genuine repentance & consistent obedience.

What Characterizes the Person God Blesses? (Haggai 2:20-23)

Trusting God in the midst of fearful uncertainties.

Serving God & others in response to God choosing & loving us.

### Next Steps

- I will identify one area where I need to repent, obey God & tell someone about it.
- I will trust God in one area where I need His peace in the midst of uncertainty & tell someone about it.
- I am committing to follow Jesus for the first time today.
- I am re-committing to follow Jesus today.



**Lesson Aim:** To grow in awareness of God's blessings and favor in our lives.

**Ice-breaker:** What is something that you used to get in trouble for as a child?

1. **Read Haggai 2:12-14** regarding the two rulings. What is the first ruling? What are some things that people think will help them become holy if they come in contact with it?
2. Using Haggai 2:13, what is the second ruling? When was a time that you let the flesh (sinful tendencies) lead you in some deed rather than God's Spirit? What was the result? How did you recover?
3. Haggai 2:14 shows that people are unclean by the work of our own hands. **Read Galatians 5:16-21.** How do you personally stay strong to walk by the Holy Spirit and receive God's blessings?
4. **Read Haggai 2:15-19.** As the people of Israel had a "new day" moving forward, so today we are no longer under the old covenant and have a new covenant with Christ. How do we gain this righteousness in Christ?
5. **Read Romans 3:21-24.** Does God see you as a righteous person? What is something that you hang on to or that can prevent you from believing or accepting this blessing of righteousness from God?
6. Real blessings come from Christ's work on the cross. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-18.** What is the old that is gone and the new that is here being referred to? What is some "new" that you have noticed in your own life since following Christ?

7. In Haggai 2:17 says that God really tried to get the attention of the people, but initially they did not come back to Him. What types of things keep people from responding when God tries to get their attention?
8. Is there something that God is doing in your life to get your attention currently?
9. Some people are afraid to receive the Lord's blessings or feel that they are not worthy. Name a time in your life when you have received a blessing and felt greatly surprised or even unworthy. **Read Romans 3:23-26.** How does this scripture make you feel regarding your worthiness?

### Daily Devotional Plan

Promises from the Bible about receiving God's blessings.

Day 1 – James 1:17

Day 2 – Isaiah 41:10

Day 3 – 2 Corinthians 9:8-10

Day 4 – Luke 12:22-31

Day 5 – Matthew 5:3-6

Day 6 – Matthew 5:6-11

Day 7 – Isaiah 1:16-19

To go deeper: Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper/journal/laptop/etc.:

- What did you hear? (What did God say to you as you read the Scriptures for the day?)
- What do you think? (What does it mean to you, how does it apply to your life, and what difference will it make to you?)
- What will you do? (What action step will you take? How will you think differently? How will you live differently?)
- Now talk to God (Put your thoughts into prayer. It could be a prayer of gratitude or praise. It could be a prayer of confession or a request for God's help. It's up to you. But take a minute each day to write a prayer response to what you read in the Scriptures.)