

Bible Study
The Study of Haggai

**OBEDY NO
MATTER WHAT**

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Hey there! In yesterday's study, God, the Solution-Solver, showed the Jews their real problem by pointing out their symptoms. It sure made me think about the symptoms in my life that I need to consider. I hope you're doing the same.

Let's ask God to turn all those symptoms into mini-GPS units that lead us to the real problem. Rarely is the problem *out there*. Usually the problem is in *here* – in our hearts, in our choices, and in our priorities.

The people could have thought their real problem was that their houses needed paneling or that their crops needed fertilizer. They could have thought their real problem was that the new temple would be puny compared to the last one, so why bother?

But the real problem was disobedience. God's house still lay in ruins.

Read **Haggai 1:10-11**

Describe the price of the people's disobedience:

Now, contrast that disobedience with the blessings of obedience found in **Deuteronomy 7:12-14**.

Describe what God promised:

This passage has a direct connection between obedience and blessing. Growth, prosperity, and fertility were all direct results of obedience. Death, poverty, and futility were results of disobedience. When we're obedient, we experience _____ and _____; we live in _____. When we're disobedient, hope and peace die a slow death. We find ourselves in _____, and our best efforts end in futility.

Ultimately, our _____ pleases God and is for His glory. Like John Piper says, "God is most _____ in us when we are most _____ in Him." That means that even if you don't see a direct link between your obedience and God's blessings, you are most blessed because your soul is most satisfied.

But can we be honest here? Sometimes in my most honest and flawed self, I hope, think, expect, and wish that my obedience will not only glorify God, but will also help me out a little!

How about you? Do you sometimes obey God with selfish motivation, hoping for some physical rewards for your good behavior? Explain.

Pause here and pray about this. Prayerfully journal the answers to the following questions:

Does obedience guarantee blessing?

Is blessing contingent on obedience?

Can it be true obedience if my motives are selfish or my heart isn't in it?

Read **Luke 6:46** and **John 14:15**.

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

“If you love me, keep my commands.”

What do these verses tell you about why you obey?

Love Me

Who wants to go up a mountain, gather wood, and build God’s house when you’ve got your own fixer-upper that needs paneling?

For the Jews Haggai addressed, obedience was “ _____ into the hills, _____ lumber, and _____ the house.” It wasn’t for them. It was for God and His pleasure and glory.

We don’t obey to get good stuff from God. We obey to give glory to God. We do it for Him, not for what we get from Him. We can find blessing in the process of obedience regardless of the outcome of obedience.

What blessings do you experience when you obey?

Does God sometimes bless obedience with tangible things? Sure. But most of the time the blessings are unseen – a _____, a _____, a _____.

Is there an area in your life where you need to trust God and obey no matter the outcome? Explain.

Let's end today with prayer for grace to obey. I know I sure need it!

Dear God,

Amen.

Well, you did some good stuff today. May we all be people who obey just because we love God and want Him to be honored and glorified. Yes!

Still Our Time