

Bible Study

The Study of Haggai

FIND YOUR ONE THING

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Today, we'll move to the next verses in Haggai 2 and see how God handled the weepy elders who were disappointed and discouraged.

Review Haggai 2:1-3. Then, read verse 4.

What was the one little four-letter verb or action word in Haggai 2:4 that God used to tell the Jews what to do next.

Grab your dictionary and write the definition of work.

activity involving mental or physical effort done in order to achieve a purpose or result:

a task or tasks to be undertaken; something a person or thing has to do:

Do you work outside the home?

If your work is not outside the home or if you don't work, what do you do with your time?

Is your work identical to your BFF's, spouse's, or neighbor's work?

Of course not! But I am going somewhere with this. **Work is defined as our exertion or effort to accomplish something.** There are a million ways to do work and a million different jobs, talents, skill sets – everybody has different things they do well. Your BFF may work in accounting. If you’re married, your spouse may be a truck driver. Your neighbor may be a nurse, a gardener, a teacher, a cook, or a cashier. You may be a CPA, LPN, PhD, OR MD. Or you may be a homemaker and a homeschool mom. Everybody has a different job. Usually, we gravitate toward particular work based on our particular skills, talents, or interests.

What is the main reason people work?

Besides providing income, I think the main reason people work is that it gives them a place to do their thing – to do what they’re passionate about, called to, enjoy, or skilled at. Sure, there are times we don’t love our jobs, but we’re grateful for the opportunity to contribute to supporting our families and serving others.

Now, here’s my question: If you could wave a magic wand and be able to work in whatever field you wanted, what would you do and why? (Of course, it may be what you are already doing).

Chances are what you wrote down reflects something about you. It likely reveals your one thing. You know, that thing you care about the most, what you’re the best at, and most passionate about.

Well, in Haggai 2:4, the Jews had a chance to do their one thing. But their one thing finds its context and purpose in the main thing. Based on what you have

already learned about Haggai's prophecy, what was the main thing God was calling the Jews to do?

The main thing was _____ so that He would be glorified. In order for the main thing to happen, the people had to apply each of their "_____" to the job. Somebody hammered. Somebody did the drywall. Somebody swept up sawdust. Somebody made PB&J and lemonade. You get the idea. Many parts but one purpose.

Does that remind you of anything you've read in the New Testament? Hmm...

I found a few. First, Romans 12:4-5 declares two distinct truths that inform our one things.

**4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:
5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.**

Circle the statement not found in those verses:

- We all have different functions
- Some of us have more important positions and functions in the body than other.
- We all function in conjunction with each other.

Do you believe that some of us have more valuable positions or functions than others in the body of Christ?

Do you believe that my one things may be more valuable or necessary than your one things?

I sure hope you wrote a big NO WAY in all caps! My one thing is not more important or more valuable than your one thing. God gives us all different giftings, and each gifting _____ and is _____ to accomplish the main thing. **The ground at the foot of the cross is perfectly level.** No one has a higher status than anyone else. Nobody's one thing is a bigger or better things.

Let's go to another Scripture.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-20.

What was Paul's point in differentiating the unique body parts, like eyes and feet and ears?

How does 1 Corinthians 12:20 apply to this idea of each of us having a one thing that leads to accomplishing the main thing?

The point of your _____ is to contribute to the _____. You may think that what you do in the body of Christ is of little value. It may be behind the scenes where no one notices. But I promise, what you see as little – what the world may see as little – God sees as mighty. The church needs all of us doing what we're called to do to accomplish _____. You may think it's no big deal, but to God and His church, it's a big deal!

You may need to hear with your heart what God said through Haggai: **"Take courage and work; for I am with you" (2:4, NASB). Take courage.** Be brave and do what God has called you to do. Take courage and do what God has designed you to do.

What is your one thing? Do you know? What is your spiritual gifting? What are your talents? What are you passionate about? Those things will help you know how God wired you to serve Him. Look back at that personal mission statement you wrote on page 16. It might help narrow your focus.

But keep this in mind – your one thing may look different at different seasons of your life. For example, you may be gifted to teach. But how, where, and whom could change through the years. Or, your one thing may be hospitality. In your twenties that could look like.....In your forties, it might look like..... No matter what season of life, if hospitality is your one thing, you're the first to jump over a pew to welcome the first-timers who visit your church. Whatever it is, be faithful to what God has called you to and gifted you for.

Take a moment to journal your thoughts or write out a prayer asking God to clarify this for you.

If you aren't sure what your one thing is, don't let that overwhelm you.

Walking with God on the path He leads you on is your most important one thing. So take courage, my friend, and take a step! Do your one thing in the big scheme of all things God is doing to accomplish His main thing in this world.

Be brave enough to be you and do what God is calling you to do! I'm cheering you on!

ENCOURAGER SHOUT OUT

Who are the people in your life who help you do your thing because they do their thing so well? Pause and give them a shout out. Text, call, email, or write a note to say thanks and encourage them today. "Encourage each other daily, while it is still called today" (Heb. 3:13, CSB).