

FOR YOUR PROPHET

THE BOOK OF HAGGAI

HOW TO FINISH STRONG

These are all warning markers--DANGER!--in our history books, written down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. 1 Corinthians 10:11 • Message

So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. **Galatians 6:9** (MP)

➤ 6 STEPS THAT RESULT IN A STRONG FINISH

1. I LISTEN TO GOD.

This is what the LORD Almighty says... **Haggai 1:2a** (NIV)

- These or similar words are in **26** of Haggai's **38** verses.

Everything's falling apart on me, GOD; put me together again with your Word. **Psalms 119:107** (MP)

2. I LOOK AT MYSELF.

And...GOD... spoke out again: "Take a good, hard look at your life. Think it over. **Haggai 1:5** (MP)

- God wants to ask me "How's that working out for you?"

You planted a lot, but you harvested little. You eat, but you're never full. You drink, but you're still thirsty. You wear clothing, but you never have enough to keep you warm. You spend money as fast as you earn it. ⁷ This is what the LORD... says: Carefully consider your ways! **Haggai 1:6, 7** (GW)

Take a good look at yourselves to see if you are really believers. Test yourselves. Don't you realize that Christ Jesus is in you? Unless, of course, you fail the test! **2 Corinthians 13:5** (NIRV)

Clearly it is not that God's word has failed. The truth is that not everyone descended from Israel is truly Israel. **Romans 9:6** (Voice)

3. I ALIGN MY PRIORITIES.

A Message from GOD...: "The people procrastinate. They say this isn't the right time to rebuild my Temple, the Temple of GOD." ³ Shortly after that, GOD said more and Haggai spoke it: ⁴ "How is it that it's the 'right time' for you to live in your fine new homes while the Home, GOD's Temple, is in ruins?" ⁵ And then a little later, GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies spoke out again: "Take a good, hard look at your life. Think it over. **Haggai 1:2-5** (MP)

4. I LIVE BY THOSE PRIORITIES.

"Think it over," says the Lord Almighty. "Consider how you have acted and what has happened as a result! ⁸ Then go up into the mountains, bring down timber, and rebuild my Temple, and I will be pleased with it and appear there in my glory," says the Lord. **Haggai 1:7-8** (LB)

Then Zerubbabel, the chief priest Joshua, and the faithful few who returned from Babylon obeyed the LORD their God. **Haggai 1:12a** (GW)

Obey God's message! Don't fool yourselves by just listening to it. ²³ If you hear the message and don't obey it, you are like people who stare at themselves in a mirror ²⁴ and forget what they look like as soon as they leave. ²⁵ You must never stop looking at the perfect law that sets you free. God will bless you in everything you do, if you listen and obey, and don't just hear and forget. **James 1:22-25** (GW)

5. I ENLIST MY LEADERS HELP

- By listening to their instruction.

...(they) obeyed the Lord. They also obeyed the words of the prophet Haggai... **Haggai 1:12b** (GW)

- By submitting to their authority.

They obeyed...because the LORD their God had sent him and because the people feared the LORD. **Haggai 1:2c** (GW)

Obey your spiritual leaders and recognize their authority, for they keep watch over your soul without resting since they will have to give an account to God for their work. So it will benefit you when you make their work a pleasure and not a heavy burden. **Hebrews 13:17** (TPT)

- By following in their footsteps.

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith... **Hebrews 13:7** (NIV)

6. I LEAN ON GOD IN FAITH.

"Are any of you still living who saw how glorious My first house was before it was destroyed more than 60 years ago? How does this current one look to you now? In comparison to the first, does this one look like nothing? Of course it does. ⁴ "But don't be discouraged. Be strong, Zerubbabel. Be strong, Joshua.... Be strong... Keep working on it. For I, the Eternal, Commander of heavenly armies, am with you... ⁹ You will stand by and watch as the magnificence of this new house will eclipse the magnificence of My first house. And in this new house, I will give you peace. **Haggai 2:3, 5, 9** (VOICE)

➤ **THE END RESULT:** What had been stalled for about **16 years**, was finished in about **12 weeks**.

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