

Part 3 “The Do-Over”

By

Renewal is a spiritual process we must revisit our whole life.

Haggai 2:3-5

1

CAPTURE

Grab Their Attention

Do-overs are fun, and when we were kids they happened all the time: if we made a mistake we could yell “do over” and get a clean piece of paper or new turn at bat.

Even golfers get do-overs (they call them “mulligans”).

Because of grace we get do overs in “real life,” too.

Illustration

You may remember the at the beginning of the series we talked about in Nehemiah and Ezekiel as a big example of renewal.

In 538 B.C. fifty thousand Jews left Babylon and returned to their homeland to rebuild the temple and restore the nation.

In 536, they laid the foundation of the temple;

but the work was stopped by their enemies and was not resumed

until 520 under the preaching of Haggai and Zechariah.

So there was renewal, it was interrupted by life and challenges, and there was a comeback.



2

CONNECT

Direct Them to God's Word

The Israelites had recently returned to Jerusalem after years of exile in a foreign land. They had the opportunity for a fresh start—a chance to make a comeback—and their first order of business was to rebuild the temple.

Bible Verse

Haggai 2:3-5 (CSB)

³Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Doesn't it seem to you like nothing by comparison?

⁴Even so, be strong, Zerubbabel — this is the Lord's declaration. Be strong, Joshua son of Jehozadak, high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land — this is the Lord's declaration. Work! For I am with you — the declaration of the Lord of Armies.

⁵This is the promise I made to you when you came out of Egypt, and my Spirit is present among you; don't be afraid.”

3

CONSIDER

What Does This Mean Today?

So there's a bunch of people in the first verse saying, man I wish we could go back to the glory days.

But God then makes it clear, it's not about living in the past.

The scope of scripture points to the future Kingdom of God.

As the old men get nostalgic, God declares 'NOW be strong.'

Get to work now, cause 'I am with you', 'you are mine', and my 'spirit reigns in your midst'.

Philippians 3:13 states, that Paul knows he hasn't attained spiritual perfection.

But one thing he does know, "he forgets what is passed, and presses on to what is ahead."

So what's the point?



Illustration



4

COLLIDE

Where God's Word Meets Our Everyday Life

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Application

At the beginning of our series we started with a renewal story, and that story didn't go so well, so then Haggai and Zechariah had to start again.

God's message to them in that was:

Don't think about the past, but live your present for the future.

As Jon Foreman wisely said, "every breath is a second chance."

If you have a major renewal now, you will still need one later.

It's called growth.

This grace to fall and get back up again, keeps us from giving up on renewal, just because we've become spiritually stagnant.



5

CALL

Respond to the Holy Spirit

Grace means everybody gets a chance at a do-over in life. Don't let anyone tell you differently.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in this verse that our mind is valuable:

“Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think” (Romans 12:2).

Renewal means, you can get a do-over with God.

