

Marks of Genuine Revival: The Humble Response to God's Call

Haggai 1:12-15 · Kaká Monteiro · July 12, 2026

The people who listen, the God who says "I am with you", the spirit stirred for the work

THE CENTRAL IDEA

"Revival isn't something the church does; it is something God does in the church when it goes back to hearing and obeying."

After 14 years of settling in, the people hear the rebuke and respond. There was no campaign, no pressure, no shouting: there was obedience, fear of God and the promise of his presence. Then God stirred up their spirit, and the work started again. The zeal that was missing came as fruit.

THE MESSAGE IN 3 MOVEMENTS

01 Renewed obedience to the word.

The people receive the word and respond, as in Nehemiah's day, when the reading of Scripture led to repentance. Revival is born of ordinary people going back to fearing and obeying what God had already said. And God gives weight back to the church's voice.

02 Wonder and closeness.

When God moves, reverence and awe return: we have no ruler to measure who he is. And the relationship is restored: from "this people" to "I am with you". "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine."

03 Zeal as fruit, not as the starting point.

The order is: word obeyed (v.12), presence declared (v.13), zeal stirred (v.14). No one was forced to serve by threats. When passion is missing, it is usually because we stopped listening to the Lord's voice.

READING THE TEXT · HAGGAI 1:12-15

Haggai 1:12 · Obedience and fear

Zerubbabel the governor, Joshua the high priest and the whole remnant of the people obey the voice of the Lord and the words of the prophet Haggai. And the people fear the Lord.

Haggai 1:13 · Presence declared

Haggai, the Lord's messenger, delivers the shortest message in the book: "I am with you," declares the Lord. Those who used to be called "this people" hear that God is with them.

Haggai 1:14-15 · Spirits stirred

The Lord stirs up the spirit of Zerubbabel, of Joshua and of all the people, and they come and begin to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month.

QUESTIONS FOR THE GROUP

To open: tell about a moment when you felt God very close: a service, a retreat, a conversation. What made that moment different?

- 1 Lloyd-Jones says revival can't be organized: it is something God does in the church. What did you picture when you heard the word "revival"? What changes when you think of it as God's sovereign work?
- 2 The people obeyed what God had already said. Is there something clear in the Word that you know you need to obey and have been putting off? What has been stopping you?
- 3 From "this people" to "I am with you". How have you been experiencing God's presence lately? What usually pulls you away from that closeness?
- 4 Zeal came after obedience. In which area of your life (serving, praying, inviting people) do you miss passion? What step of obedience could rekindle that zeal?

KEY PASSAGES

Nehemiah 8:8-9, The Law was read and explained, and all the people wept as they listened to its words. Another revival from the same era, born of the word, not of technique.

2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people... will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn... then I will hear from heaven." The way back that Haggai 1 describes.

Psalms 19:7, "The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul." When God speaks and the people respond, life flows again.

TO CLOSE

A step for this week. Take an honest look: how do you feel about the church: apathetic, happy, part of it? Bring that to God and, if you need to, talk to someone you trust. And choose one thing God has already said in the Bible that you have been putting off obeying.

Prayer. Ask God to stir up each person's spirit, as he did with Zerubbabel and the people. Thank him that he says "I am with you" and ask for a new passion for his glory: only what is done for Christ will last.



Watch the message again: point your phone camera here.