September 12, 2021

The Upward Challenge: Haggai: Haggai 1:13-15a The Challenge of God's Presence

God's promise of God's Presence (1:13)

"Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke to the people with the LORD's message, 'I am with you, declares the LORD'" (Haggai 1:13).

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in [b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

When God speaks work begins (1:14-15a)

"And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. And they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God" (Haggai 1:14).

"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:6, 7).

"...we should never be attentive to [God's] word, were He not to open our ears; and there would be no inclination to obey, were He not to turn our hearts; in a word, both will and effort would immediately fail in us, were He not to add His gift of perseverance and presence..." (John Calvin, *Haggai*).

