

# Recovering From Atrophy

## Atrophy

- "a wasting away or failure to grow."
- process causing deterioration from lack of use or disease

## Review

- Israelite people exiled from homes and land by Babylonian Empire for over 70 years
- 539 Babylonian Empire falls to Cyrus the Great signaling the beginning of Medo-Persian empire

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## Review

- In 538 exiles allowed to return to Jerusalem
- 50 000 people return to rebuild temple that has been destroyed, enjoy God's presence with them
- 18 months spent clearing rubble and preparing foundation for the building
- 15 Years later Haggai has four messages in four months to people living in ruins with a job yet undone

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Last Week: God's Wake Up Call

## 1. God Issues a Call to Consider

- “give careful thought to your ways”
- says, you are a people unfulfilled, without purpose, unsatisfied because your priorities and perspective are wrong.

## 2. God Issues a Call To Commence

- desire of God to dwell with them, bless them, be honored in their lives
- calls them to action building the temple

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Haggai 1:12-15

**“Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of the people obeyed the voice of the Lord their God and the message of the prophet Haggai, because the Lord their God had sent him. And the people feared the Lord. Then Haggai, the Lord’s messenger, gave this message of the Lord to the people: ‘I am with you,’ declares the Lord. So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God, on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of King Darius.”**

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## 1. The Practice Of the People

- Response to God two-fold.
- Obeyed the Call of God (shamah)
  - term meaning more than action, implies listening, hearing, understanding, and acting. More than a simple assent or following directions - understanding and responding to the meaning.
  - space between vs. 8 commanding go and vs. 15 when the work commenced - 23 days

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## 1. The Practice Of the People

- “The people feared the Lord”

- fear -”fear of God connotes a manifestation of great respect or worship.” “awe and appropriate reverence”

- the people understood the holiness, presence, and power of Almighty God, and respected his right to be first in the priorities of their lives.

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## 2. The Provision of God

- God's promise - "I am with you" vs.13

- same God who delivered ancestors from Egypt, the same God who caused the walls of Jericho to crumble, the same God who delivered many enemies into their hands, same God faithful to an unfaithful people restoring them to their land, this God promises I am with you.

- Suggest - when we determine to obey and fear God in our lives, we are in a position to hear his assurance that he "*is with us*"

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## 2. The Provision of God

- “the Lord stirred up the spirit ...” vs.14
- God begins with leadership, continues to the people, stirring them up by his action in their lives
- Progression:
  - face to face with failure
  - response of obedience and fear
  - God’s assurance of his presence
  - Passion and Vision Recaptured



# Recovering From Atrophy

So What

Spiritual Atrophy is a real disease!

Recovery takes discipline, discomfort, commitment

God Issues His Chosen Wake Up Calls In Response We:

## 1. Practice Obedience and Fear

- Timely and appropriate response to God's call
- Awe and reverence of God he deserves (fear)

# Recovering From Atrophy

So What

1. Practice Obedience and Fear

2. Acknowledge the Provision of God

- “I am with You” - in a lack of supplies, when we cannot see the way, when circumstances look impossible.

- God will restore passion and vision, we do not have to manufacture it in serving Him.