

## NEXT STEPS

No matter how down and discouraged we may get, no matter how much we want to quit and give up... it is important that we don't forget that nothing ever catches God by surprise. He knows what He is doing... He sees the big picture and in the end, when everything is said and done, the world will recognize that God is in control... the whole world will confess that Jesus is Lord.

**What steps might you take today to remind you that God is in control?  
What can you do to keep "the first things first"?**

1ST  
THINGS  
1ST

## PRAYER REQUESTS

What/who can you be praying for this week?

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TALK IT OVER

# Talk It Over Questions

For the week of November 9, 2025

Be Encouraged – God is in Control

*Haggai 2:20-23*

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## MY STORY

The world's definition of success is rooted in terms of our appearance, financial status, skills, achievements, career, education, and/or possessions. God's definition of success is rooted in our obedience and faithfulness to Him, regardless of the circumstances. God does not call us to be successful, He calls us to be faithful.

**What difficulties have you found with choosing godly faithfulness over worldly success?**

It is much easier to say that "God is in control," than to believe that He is. We cling to our jobs, our good health, our finances, our relationships as if those things provide us security and comfort. Thankfully, God is faithful to His promises. When God says "I will" to something, we can count on it happening without a shadow of doubt because God is sovereign, all powerful, and is in complete control of everything... past, present, and future.

**What are some "things" that you tend to cling onto for security and comfort? Why?**

## DIGGING DEEPER

Zerubbabel struggled with his identity, but thankfully God (as He does with us) knew/knows the bigger picture. Be encouraged even when you feel insignificant because God sees you and God knows you and He has a plan and purpose for you. Read the following passage and answer the corresponding question.

Haggai 2:20-23; Colossians 3:23-24

**In light of Haggai 2:20-23, Colossians 3:23-24, and your own life... what are some practical and intentional steps that you can take to fight against personal thoughts of doubt and insignificance?**

When God told Zerubbabel, "I will make you like My signet ring" (Haggai 2:23), He was restoring what had once been removed through Zerubbabel's grandfather, Jeconiah, when God tore the signet ring from His hand because of Judah's sin (Jeremiah 22:24). The signet ring symbolized authority, identity, and belonging, and its restoration showed that God's covenant promise to David (2 Samuel 7:12-16) was still alive despite human failure. Through Zerubbabel, God demonstrated that His plans cannot be thwarted by the past—that redemption always has the final word (Matthew 1:12-13). In the same way, God can take what's been broken or rejected in our lives and turn it into a testimony of His faithfulness and grace (Romans 8:28).

**Where in your life or family history have you seen God take something that felt broken, rejected, or forgotten and use it to show His faithfulness and restoration?**

Not only is God in control, He sees us as significant, and extends grace... God has included us in His plan of redemption and reconciliation. Think about this... as children of God, we have been chosen by God. Jesus has bought us with His blood. God has a plan for our lives and has given us His Holy Spirit, who has equipped us with spiritual gifts to fulfill His plan for our lives.

**Knowing that God has included you in His plan, what are some practical things that you can do to make sure you live out His plan?**