

# Kingdom Priority 3: Spiritual Growth

**HAGGAI 2:1-9**





## II Peter 3:18

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*





# Synonymous Ideas with Growth

- Pursue righteousness (I Timothy 6:11)
- Be transformed (Romans 12:2)
- Complete your holiness (II Corinthians 7:1)
- Press towards the goal (Philippians 3:14)
- Be built up in the faith (Colossians 2:7)
- Be transformed into His image (II Corinthians 3:18)



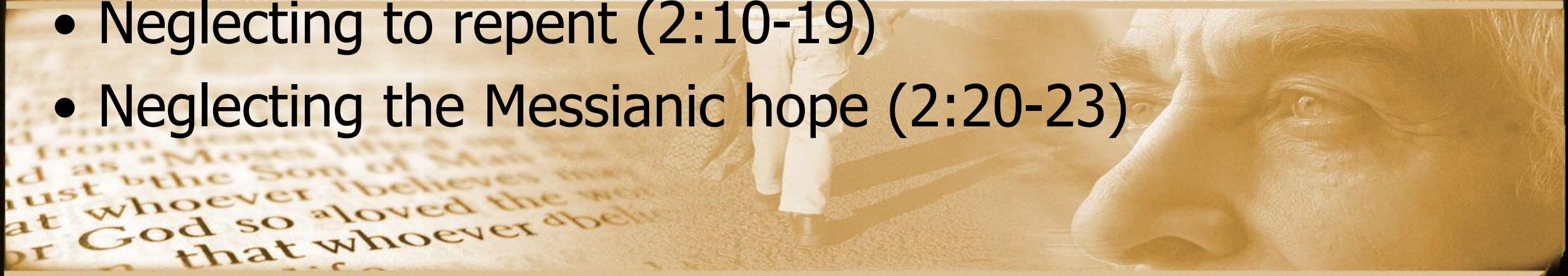
# Clearing the Confusion about Growth

- Spiritual growth and our position in Christ are not the same thing.
- Spiritual growth takes time.
- Spiritual growth will not come by knowing the right things.
- Spiritual growth will not come by being spiritually busy.
- Spiritual growth is not validated by prosperity.



# Outline of Neglect in Haggai

- Neglecting the glory of God's name (1:1-11)
- Neglecting their own obedience to God (1:12-15)
- **Neglecting spiritual growth (2:1-9)**
- Neglecting to repent (2:10-19)
- Neglecting the Messianic hope (2:20-23)





**KEY POINT:** Prioritize your own spiritual growth.





# I. When the Past Is a Problem (vs. 1-3)





## **I Kings 8:1-2**

*<sup>1</sup> Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the people of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.*

*<sup>2</sup> And all the men of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.*



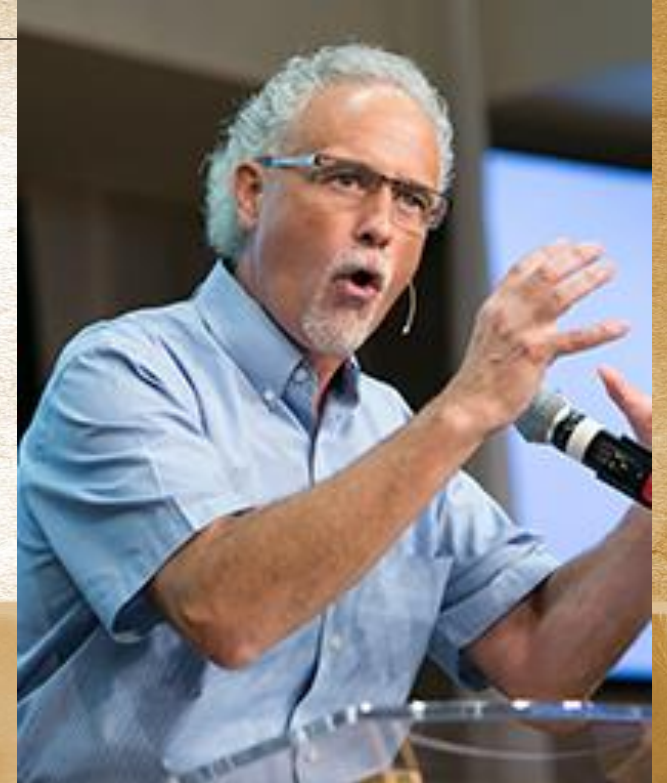
“Many men and women have relationships filled with habits they wish would go away. Like the spouse who promised to communicate better but just lashed out with biting sarcasm, again. Or the father who wants to be more positive but just yelled at his child, again. Or the single person who wants to be pure but just fell...



**Steve Viars,**  
***Putting Your Past In  
Its Place***



"...into immorality, again.  
Could the past have anything to do  
with it? It goes further.  
There are the private failures.  
Another night of Internet  
pornography. Another trip to the  
liquor store. Another purging  
session after dinner. Like Jeremiah's  
leopard that cannot change its...

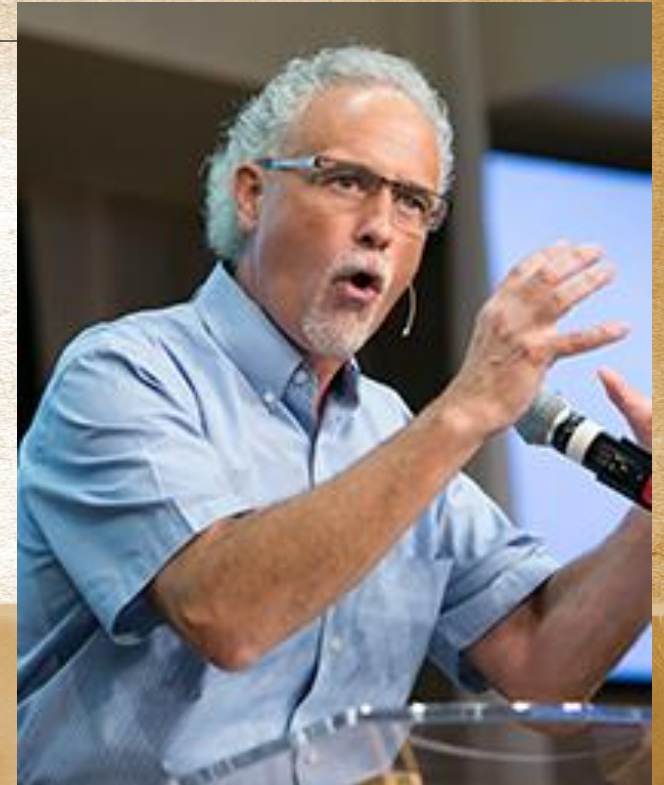


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"...spots, such persons are exhausted from promising and failing over and over again. Could the past have anything to do with it? But the worst is being stuck in the heart.

Bitterness. Jealousy. Revenge. Rage. Disappointment. Hatred. Lust. Wrath. Discouragement. Fear. Worry. Many persons have...

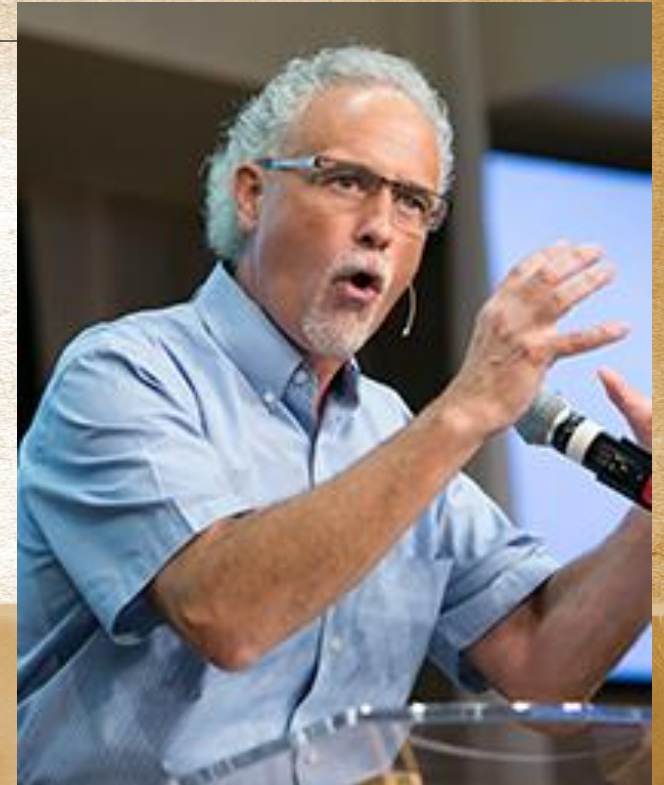


**Steve Viars,  
*Putting Your Past In  
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"...thoughts and desires that are both loathsome and familiar.

They know they should think differently but such patterns feel like home."



**Steve Viars,  
*Putting Your Past In  
Its Place***



I. When the Past Is a Problem (vs. 1-3)

II. What the Present Should Produce (vs. 4-5)





## **I Chronicles 28:10, 20**

*10 Be careful now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it.*

*20 Then David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the LORD God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished.*



# God On Our Side

- When Joshua was succeeding Moses (Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:6-7, 9)
- When the Hebrews were close to completing the Conquest (Joshua 8:1; 10:25)
- From Jehoshaphat when praying before their attack on the Ammonites and Moabites (II Chronicles 20:17).



"The holiest, most universal and necessary practice in the spiritual life is the presence of God. To practice the presence of God is to take pleasure in and become accustomed to His Divine company, speaking humbly and conversing lovingly in our hearts with Him at all times, and at every moment,...



**Brother Lawrence,  
*The Practice of the  
Presence of God***



"...especially in times of temptation,  
pain, spiritual dryness,  
revulsion to spiritual things, [and  
even unfaithfulness and sin."



**Brother Lawrence,  
*The Practice of the  
Presence of God***



**KEY POINT:** Prioritize your own spiritual growth.





I. When the Past Is a Problem (vs. 1-3)

II. What the Present Should Produce (vs. 4-5)

III. When the Future Becomes Hopeful (vs. 6-9)





# When Did God Shake the Heavens and the Earth?

- Near?
- Future? (Isaiah 2:12-21; Matthew 24:29-30; Zechariah 14:1-4)
- Ongoing





# Who or What is the "Treasures of All Nations?"

- The Messiah? (Romans 8:19-22)
- Monies for the Temple (Haggai 2:8; Ezra 6:8; Isaiah 60:5; 61:6; 66:20; Zechariah 14:14; Ezekiel 43:5)





## **Psalm 24:7-10**

*<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up,  
O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.*

*<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and  
mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!*

*<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up,  
O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.*

*<sup>10</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts,  
he is the King of glory! Selah*



**KEY POINT:** Prioritize your own spiritual growth.





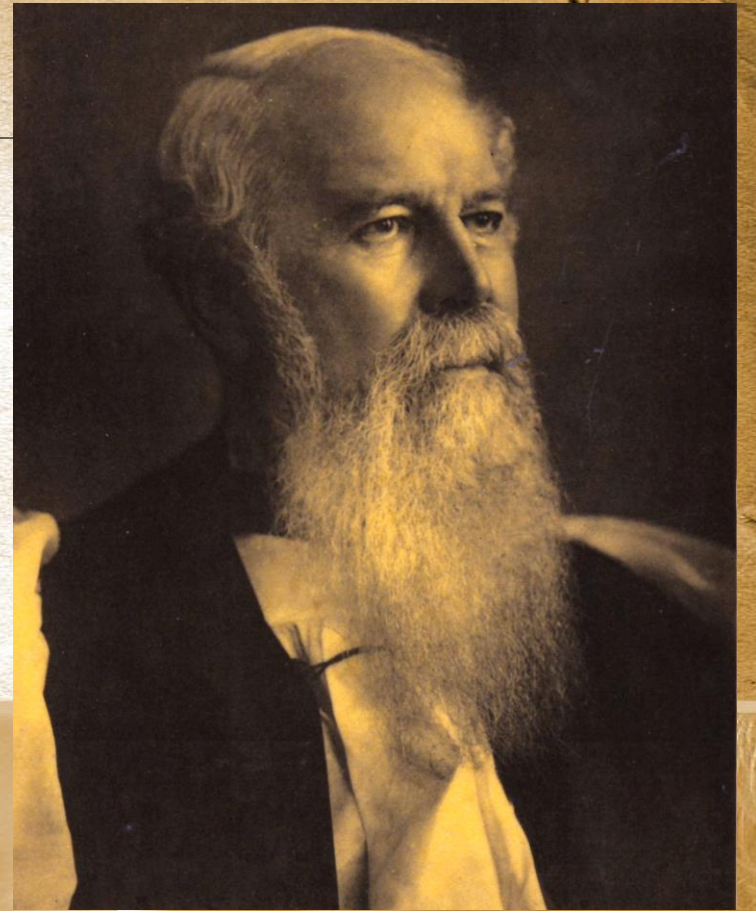
# Area of Growth for WBC

- How we pray for one another
- More intentional discipleship
- Greater commitment to Equipping Classes





“The Christian who is always at a standstill, to all appearances the same man, with the same little faults, and weaknesses, and besetting sins, and petty infirmities, is seldom the Christian who does much good.”



**J.C. Ryle,**  
***Holiness***