

Haggai 1:2-8

"Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: 'This people says, 'The time has not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.' ' Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 'Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?' Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Consider your ways! 'You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes.' Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Consider your ways! Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,' says the LORD.

We spend 8 hours a day, 40 hours a week at work, and why do we do it? To build our own homes, and to supply for our own needs. We have nice things in our homes, cars, food, furniture, and little nick-nack's. Now when you go into the church, how new are the things in it, or what things need to be replaced, or maybe they are not even there.

If you need something for your home, you work a second job, or overtime so you can get it. If God's home needs something we just say, *"We'll pray about it and God will supply."* But isn't that why God has us there, so that we can help supply for the needs of the church? That's one-way God uses us.

Here are a couple of examples of God using the people to supply in the church, even though He could do it Himself at any time.

† ***Exodus 25:1-2 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 'Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering.***

† ***Acts 4:32-35 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.***

Even though God could have provided in these cases, He wanted His people to be a part of what He was doing. Just as God wants you to be a part of what He's doing now.

Now, you may not be able to give financially, but what about your time? Just don't let it become a job; it should be a privilege to give to, as well as serve God in His house (the church), whether it's money or time, with material things or prayer or serving in the church.

Remember; its not *"I got to serve the Lord"* but rather, *"I get to serve the Lord."*

† **2 Corinthians 9:7** *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*