

Sermon Title: “Hello Fear”
Rev. Darien Waite
Date: November 27, 2022
Haggai 2:1-5

1 in the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the Lord came by the prophet Haggai, saying: **2** “Speak now to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, and say: **3** Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Is it not in your sight as nothing? **4** Yet now take courage, O Zerubbabel, says the Lord; take courage, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; take courage, all you people of the land, says the Lord; work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts, **5** according to the promise that I made you when you came out of Egypt. My spirit abides among you; do not fear.

Summary and Commentary

The prophet is speaking to a people who had been in exile. The people are having a hard time remaining hopeful that their lives will get better. God’s word through Haggai acknowledges that they are having a tough time but then tells them “take courage” because God is with them and God’s promises to be with them still hold true.

Fear is a commonly experienced emotion whose function is to help us survive. Even though it has its benefits, at times fear can get in the way of our moving forward in life. At those times, we need to confront our fear head on. We need to have a dialogue with our fear. By dialoguing with your fears can:

1. Understand how your past experiences may cause you to fear the future
2. Unveil your passive-aggressiveness- the tendency to not approach conflict head-on but to rather withdraw from others, even God
3. Unpack your pessimism-the feeling that you’ve been “left for dead”

Combat your fear by having faith in God and yourself. Know that God is with you. Most of all, know you are waiting on God with the promise of God’s presence. Don’t let fear keep you from the promise. Take hold of the hand that has never let go of you.

Reflection Questions

1. What past experiences have you had that caused you to have fear about the future?
2. How do you tend to respond in situations that cause you to doubt yourself?
3. Describe a time when you had given up hope. How did your faith allow you to get through?
4. How has fear impacted your ability to be all that God has called you to be?
5. Rev. Darien stated that “doubt is actually an element of faith.” How do you think doubt and faith work together?