



#89

**Theme:** Two Houses and God's House

**Scripture:** 1 Timothy 3:15 (CSB) *“But if I should be delayed, I have written so that you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church, the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.”*

**A Thought:** There are many versions of a household. This essay will cover three versions: a house in disrepair; a house swell with abundance; and God's house. The first two adobes are missing something: both empty of truth, holiness, love, spirit and compassion. Metaphorically, we may fall into either groups. Together we will find out what is missing and why. First, let fix our thoughts on “the need fixing” As God looks and works in our lives in many cases transformation does not come easy. Imagine a house that exudes repair needs... leaky roofs, buckling floors, screen doors used as paw scratchers; and rain drains that surround the house saturated with five-year old autumn leaves and rodent droppings. This did not happen by happenstance. Things have to be done and corrected: work, time, finance, patience and anxiety are now in the mixed. Procrastination ensues due to our lack of commitment to take care of business. Gents, take the first step. Not unlike our spiritual life. Transformation of any sort does not take place by osmosis. There is work to be done. In the Lectio Divina Bible Studies of James tells us as much... *“Trials of life, if encountered with uncertainty and wavering, will result in a defeated Christian life. Trials of life, if encountered with commitment and trust in God, will foster spiritual growth.”* Listen to James 1:1:12 (CSB) *“Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of the life that God has promised to those who love him.* We have analyzed the first house. Two houses are left to be discussed. Now....what are your thoughts?<sup>9</sup> Write them down.

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**Talk to yourself:**

- Do you struggle with earthly and spiritual procrastination? Do you listen to God?
- Are you ready to repair your life for God? Do you want Him to live in your house?
- Enjoying the good life and God is just an afterthought? Good life prevails?

**Scriptures to read:** Genesis 28:17; Psalm 84:10; Proverbs 24:3-4, 27; Luke 10:5  
1 Samuel 25:6; Haggai 1:2-7; Matt. 7:24; John 14:1-31, 1 Cor. 3:11; 2 Cor. 5:1;

**Quote:** C. S. Lewis in his book *Screw Tape Letters*. His assessment of Satan's work.... *"The safest road to hell is the gradual one - the gentle slope, self-underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, and without sign posts."*

**Bottom Line:** Now to discuss the second house. Prophet Haggai was a no nonsense prophet. In the first chapter of the two chapter Old Testament book he exhorts the political and religious leaders..... *"Think carefully about your ways: You have planted much but harvested little."* Then he hammers them with their hedonistic life style, self-indulgence, self-gratification, alcohol consumption, clothes and their spendthrift ways. but ultimately never satisfied. They also neglected God's house. Sound familiar? They glorified everything except our Lord and Savior. In later verses we learn that God punished them. Their comeuppance to be sure. Possibly this is a stretch; As I mentioned earlier I see each of us in this essay as a house. Isn't our purpose as Christians if we need fixing not unlike house repairs we go to the Lord? We should not let procrastination and or pride be a tandem hindrance to receive the Lord in our hearts. And if we are not procrastinators and are financially blessed we believe we are in the driver's seat of life. We tend to put Christ Jesus in the back seat. We look in the rear view mirror and we wink or nod at our Savior. That's it! Not any different than the Haggai generation; Two millennium plus later we need our Lord. The spiritual wing man (Jesus who died for our sins) sits right next to you. C. S. Lewis, author, *Mere Christianity* *"You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage; but he God is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself."* **NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.**  
Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray.

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