



Week 2 - Restraining Order

Generous Worship!

What, or whom, will you worship in 2025? How we invest our time, energy, and resources are good indicators of where our worship is directed. Let's consider how to worship generously!

1 - Watch the Video for Week 2 with Pastor Scott

2 - Spiritual Health Inventory Review - We looked at the Spiritual Health Inventory as a way of taking our "spiritual pulse" to begin a new year. If you haven't completed the inventory yet, I encourage you to do so - simply as a means to consider ways to deepen your relationship with God and others.

3 - Main points & passages from Sunday's sermon -

As a group, read and review these passages together:

1. Read Haggai 1:2-4 - The prophet challenges the people of Israel who had taken resources meant to rebuild the interior of the Temple in Jerusalem and used them to decorate their own houses. In this case, Haggai is talking about cedar paneling from Lebanon that had been given for God's House that found its way onto the walls of the homes of some of the wealthy leaders in Jerusalem.

- *How is the prophet identifying a worship issue? Is the problem with the paneling, or with people's hearts?*
- *Would Haggai have a message to the modern Church?*

2. Robbing God? Another prophet, Malachi, also challenges the people who were reluctant to bring their tithe and honor to the Lord. As you read the prophet's words, what are the worship issues that are raised?

- **Read Malachi 3:6-16**
- *How were the people "robbing God"?*
- *The prophet does not just mention tithes and offerings, but also the respect and trust the people were withholding from God!*
- *The people were finding that their crops and efforts were not fruitful due to their heart issues.*
- *Share how this passage challenges you - in what ways is it difficult to trust God and worship Him with your whole heart, mind, strength, and resources?*

Pray for each other - Share how you plan to intentionally grow as a worshipper in the coming weeks!

A Pattern of Worship:

Deuteronomy 6 instructs Israel to follow a pattern of daily worship that was woven into their everyday life. This still provides a rhythm for us to develop a life of worship. How can you use this pattern to develop your worship practices?

When you rise up...

When you lie down...

When you are around the house...

When you walk along the way...

Below is a cedar tree in Lebanon used for paneling in the ancient world

