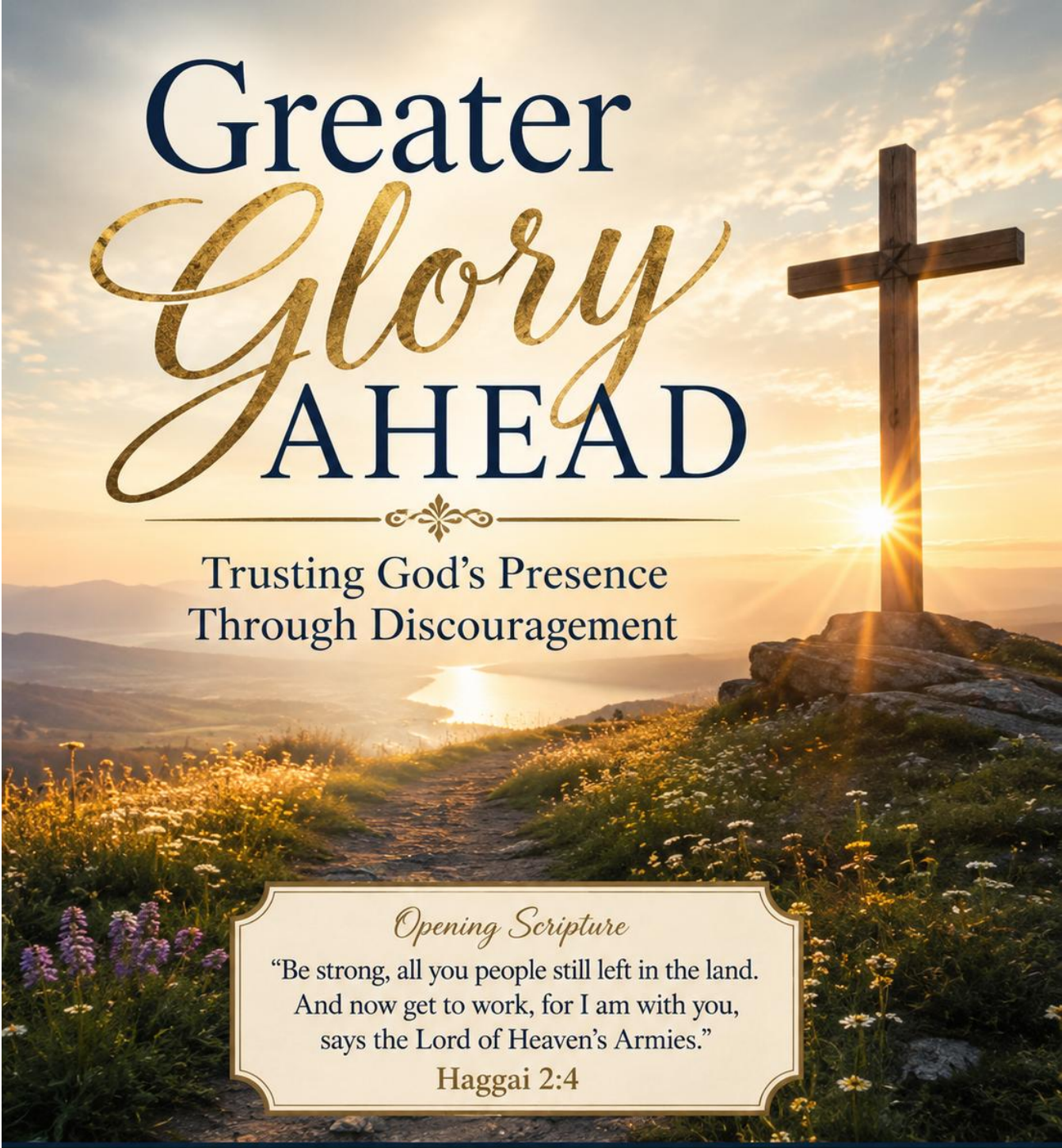




Greater *Glory* AHEAD

Trusting God's Presence
Through Discouragement

Opening Scripture

"Be strong, all you people still left in the land.
And now get to work, for I am with you,
says the Lord of Heaven's Armies."

Haggai 2:4

— WRITTEN BY —

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It is not intended to replace the care of a local church, pastoral counsel, professional counseling, legal advice, medical treatment, or mental health services. If you are facing circumstances that require professional assistance, please seek help from qualified professionals while continuing to trust the Lord for His wisdom, comfort, healing, and strength.

A Personal Note

Thank you for taking the time to study God's Word through this resource.

My prayer is that every page points you to Jesus Christ rather than to me. Any wisdom found in these pages comes from God's Word and from His faithful work in my own life. My desire is simply to faithfully teach His Word, encourage your walk with Him, and help you continue growing into the disciple He has created you to be.

Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, I pray this study strengthens your faith, deepens your understanding of God's truth, and encourages you to live as a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

“Pointing people to the hope, healing, and transformation found in Jesus Christ.”

Contact

If this resource has encouraged you and you would like additional Bible studies, discipleship resources, leadership materials, or prayer, I would be honored to hear from you.

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Introduction

There are seasons in life when discouragement feels overwhelming. We look at our circumstances, our failures, our wounds, or the losses we have experienced and wonder if anything good can come from them. It can be difficult to keep moving forward when what we see in front of us does not yet look like the promise God has spoken over our lives.

The book of *Haggai* speaks directly to that kind of discouragement. God's people had returned from exile and were rebuilding the temple, but many felt disappointed because what they were building did not seem as glorious as what had once existed. Yet God did not tell them to quit. He told them to be strong, get to work, and remember that He was with them.

This truth continues to speak to us today. God does not always remove the struggle immediately, but He promises His presence in the middle of it. He calls us to trust Him, remain faithful, and keep walking forward even when we cannot yet see the fullness of what He is doing. The greater glory ahead is not about our comfort, success, or recognition. It is about God's faithfulness being revealed through lives surrendered to Him.

As I reflected on this message, I began to see how deeply it connected to my own journey. Much of my life has included seasons of pain, rejection, loss, and discouragement, but God has never wasted any part of it.

He has used what I walked through to strengthen my faith, deepen my compassion, and prepare me for the ministry He has called me to fulfill.



How God Has Worked in My Life

For much of my life, discouragement became a familiar companion. Long before I knew Jesus Christ as my Savior, I searched for love, acceptance, and significance in places that could never satisfy the deepest needs of my heart. My family did not attend church, and conversations about God were absent from my childhood. Although my physical needs were provided for, I often felt emotionally disconnected, unseen, and unworthy.

As the years passed, painful experiences, abuse, rejection, broken relationships, and disappointment only reinforced those feelings. I often measured my worth by the

approval of others, believing that if I could just do more, be more, or please everyone around me, I would finally feel accepted. Instead, I found myself carrying fear, insecurity, and a deep sense of inadequacy into adulthood. There were many moments when the weight of discouragement seemed almost impossible to bear, and I questioned whether life would ever be different.

Looking back today, I see what I could not see then. Even before I knew Him personally, God was faithfully watching over my life. He never abandoned me, even when I felt completely alone.

Through every painful chapter, He was preparing my heart to receive His grace and drawing me toward Himself.

When I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ at the age of thirty-three, everything began to change. My circumstances did not suddenly become easy, nor did every wound disappear overnight. Instead, God began the lifelong work of transforming my heart. Through His Word, I discovered that my identity was no longer defined by my past, the opinions of others, or the pain I had endured.

My identity was found in Christ alone.

As I have continued walking with Him, God has shown me that His strength is made perfect in my weakness. He has taught me to trust His presence instead of my feelings and His promises instead of my circumstances. Although I still face trials and moments of discouragement, I no longer face them alone. The Lord has taken what once seemed hopeless and is using it to strengthen my faith, deepen my compassion for others, and prepare me for the ministry He has graciously entrusted to me.



What God's Word Teaches

The message of *Haggai* reminds us that God's work is never determined by what we can see with our eyes. When the Israelites returned from exile, they became discouraged because the temple they were rebuilding seemed small and insignificant compared to the one that had stood before. Some questioned whether their efforts mattered at all. Yet God did not measure their work by its appearance. He looked at their faithfulness.

Through the prophet *Haggai*, God called His people to be strong, continue the work He had given them, and remember that His presence was with them. Their confidence was

not to rest in their own abilities or in visible results but in the God who had promised never to leave them. His presence was the source of their courage, strength, and hope.

That same Truth remains true for believers today.

There are seasons when we become discouraged because life has not unfolded as we expected. We may wonder if our prayers matter, if our obedience is making a difference, or if God is still working behind the scenes. Scripture reminds us that God's plans are never hindered by our circumstances. He continues to accomplish His Purposes, often in ways we cannot yet understand.

Throughout the Bible, we see that God specializes in bringing beauty from brokenness, hope from despair, and purpose from suffering. He uses seasons of waiting to strengthen our faith, trials to shape our character, and difficulties to draw us closer to Himself.

His greatest work often takes place when we feel the weakest because those are the moments when we learn to depend completely upon Him.

God's promise has never been that life will be free from hardship. His promise is that He will be with His people through every trial. Because of His presence, we can continue moving forward with confidence, knowing that He is faithfully working all things according to His perfect Will and for His glory.



How This Truth Has Shaped My Ministry Calling

Looking back over my life, I can now see that God was preparing me for ministry long before I recognized His hand at work. Every season of discouragement, every unanswered question, every painful experience, and every step of healing became part of the foundation He would later use to equip me to serve others. What once felt like obstacles have become opportunities to testify to His faithfulness.

The message of Haggai has strengthened my conviction that God calls His people to remain faithful regardless of what they can see. That Truth has become a guiding principle in my own life and ministry. There have been times when progress seemed slow, doors appeared closed, and the work God placed before me felt overwhelming. Yet He continually reminds me that my responsibility is not to produce the results but to faithfully follow His leading.

The outcome has always belonged to Him.

Today, God has given me a deep desire to encourage those who feel broken, discouraged, overlooked, or uncertain about their future. I want them to know that their present circumstances do not define God's Purposes for their lives. The same Lord who patiently rebuilt my life can restore hope, strengthen faith, and lead them into the future He has prepared for them.

Whether through writing, teaching, Discipleship, or simply walking beside someone who is hurting, my prayer is that every part of this ministry points people to Jesus Christ. I want others to discover that God's presence is greater than their pain, His promises are greater than their fears, and His plans are greater than anything they can presently imagine. If my journey helps even one person trust Christ more deeply and continue walking faithfully with Him, then every difficult season will have been used for His glory.



Closing Scripture

"And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we do not know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in Words. And the Father who knows all hearts what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own Will. And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his Purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory."

Romans 8:26–30



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your unfailing faithfulness throughout every season of my life. Thank You for being with me during times of joy, sorrow, uncertainty, and discouragement. Even when I could not see Your hand at work, You were faithfully leading, strengthening, and preparing me for the plans You had already ordained. Thank You for never wasting my pain but using every trial to deepen my faith, draw me closer to You, and shape me into the person You have called me to be. Thank You for Your grace that continues to sustain me and for the privilege of serving You through this Ministry.

I pray that everything I write, teach, and share Will always point others to Jesus Christ. May Your name be glorified, Your Truth proclaimed, and Your love experienced by every person who reads these Words. Continue to use my life for Your Purposes until the day I stand in Your presence.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Prayer for the Reader

Heavenly Father,

I lift every person who reads this paper before You. You know the burdens they carry, the discouragement they may be facing, and the questions that weigh heavily on their hearts. Remind them that they are never alone because Your presence goes with them wherever they are. Strengthen them when they feel weak. Encourage them when they are weary. Help them to trust You even when they cannot see what You are doing. Give them the courage to remain faithful; to continue the work You have called them to do, and to believe that Your plans are always greater than their present circumstances.

May they experience the peace that comes from resting in Your promises and the hope that comes from knowing You are working all things together for Your glory and for their good. Draw them closer to Jesus each day, deepen their faith, and use their lives as a testimony of Your goodness and grace.

In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Prayerfully prepared by

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