**50 Days of Unleashing HOPE**

**WEEK 7**

**Play Great Defense**

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”* **EPHESIANS 6:10–11**

**SELF ABSORBED**

*"My house lies desolate while each of you runs to his own house."*  **HAGGAI 1:9**

*"This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,' says the LORD . 'You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?' declares the LORD Almighty. 'Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands.'"* **HAGGAI 1:7-11**

**TOMORROW**

*"Is it* ***time*** *for you to dwell in your paneled house while this house lies desolate?"*  **HAGGAI 1:4**

*"Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: 'Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?' Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.'"* **HAGGAI 1:3-6**

**UNWILLING TO RETURN TO GOD**

*"…'And yet you did not come back to Me," declares the Lord.'"* **HAGGAI 2:17**

**COMFORTABLE STAYING SICK**

*"This people says, 'The time has not come, even the time for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt.'"* **HAGGAI 1:2**

**KEPT LOOKING BACKWARDS**

*"Who is left who saw this temple in it's former glory? (Solomon) And how does it seem to you now? Does it seem to you like nothing in comparison?"* **HAGGAI 2:3**

**Steps for Breaking Free and Moving Forward**

1. **A CALL TO COURAGE**

*"Be Strong!"*

*"…'Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing? But now be* ***strong****,* ***O Zerubbabel****,' declares the LORD. 'Be* ***strong, O Joshua*** *son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be* ***strong, all you people*** *of the land,' declares the LORD,* ***'and work****. For I am with you,' declares the LORD Almighty. 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.'"* **HAGGAI 2:3-5**

1. **A CALL TO CONSTRUCTION**

*"And Work!"*

*"Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: 'Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"* **HAGGAI 1:3-4**

*"…'Be strong, all you people of the land,' declares the LORD,* ***'and work****. For I am with you,' declares the LORD Almighty. 'This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.''* **HAGGAI 2:4-5**

1. **A CALL TO CONFIDENCE**

*"For I Am With You!"*

*"…'As for the promise which I made you when you came out of Eqypt, my Spirit is abiding in your midst, do not fear!'"* **HAGGAI 2:5 (NASB)**

**FORMULA FOR SPIRITUAL SUCCESS**

* If you want to be distressed – look \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* If you want to be defeated – look \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* If you want to be distracted – look \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* If you want to be dismayed – look \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* If you want to be delivered – look \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**LEARN TO LET GO! – *ADDITIONAL MESSAGE OPTION***

**HEBREWS 11 – GOD’S HALL OF FAITH**

**HEBREWS 12 — THE APPLICATION**

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| *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us* ***throw off everything*** *that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”* **Hebrews 12:1** |

* **Learn to Let Go of WORRY AND ANXIETY** — (**MARTHA - LUKE 10)**

*"****Do not be anxious about anything****, but in everything, by prayer and petition,* ***with thanksgiving,*** *present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all under-standing, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* **Philippians 4:6-7**

* **Learn to Let Go of BITTERNESS** — (**Joseph - genesis 45-50)**

* **Resentment Poisons You**

*"You are only hurting yourself with your anger!"* **Job 18:4**

* **Resentment Poisons Other People**

### *"See to it that no one misses the grace of God…and that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled."* HEBREWS 12:15

* **Resentment Poisons Your Future**

*"Some men stay healthy till the day they die. They die happy and at ease...others have no happiness at all; they live and die with bitter hearts."* **JOB 21:23-25**

* **Learn to Let Go of DOUBT** — (**MOSES – EXODUS 3-4)**

*"Anyone who* ***doubts*** *is like a wave in the sea, blown up and down by the wind…They should not think they will receive anything from the Lord."* **James 1:6-7**

 **Abraham & Sarah – had a doubt problem**

 **Moses – had a doubt problem**

 **Joseph – had a doubt problem**

 **Jonah – had a doubt problem**

 **Joshua – had a doubt problem**

 **Timothy – had a doubt problem**

 **Thomas – had a doubt problem**

 **Peter – had a doubt problem**

* **Learn to Let Go** **of SELFISHNESS** — (**ANNANIAS & SAPPHIRA – ACTS 4-5)**

*"There is more joy in giving than receiving."* Acts 20:35

* **Learn to Let Go** **of** **GUILT** — (**DAVID – PSALMS 32 & 51)**

*"When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD' — and you forgave the guilt of my sin."* **Psalm 32:3-5**

* **Learn to Let Go** **of** **Unhealthy Relationships** — (**JOSEPH – GENESIS 39)**

*"Do not be misled: '****Bad******company*** *corrupts good character.'"* **1 CORINTHIANS 15:33**

* **Learn to Let Go** **of** **PAST FAILURES** — (**PETER – JOHN 21)**

*"…one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead."* Philippians 3:13

* **Learn to Let Go** **of** **DISCOURAGEMENT** — (**NEHEMIAH 1-6)**

*"So I answered them and said to them, 'The God of heaven will give us success; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no portion, right or memorial in Jerusalem.'"* Nehemiah 2:20 (nas)

* **Learn to Let Go** **of** **PRIDE AND ARROGANCE**— (**HEZEKIAH – 2 KINGS 19-20)**

*"All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time."* 1 Peter 5:5-6

**Finding Freedom-----Forever!**

**(The Example of Paul)**

*"Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, 'This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live.' But* ***Paul shook the snake off*** *into the fire and suffered no ill effects. The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead, but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god."* Acts 28:1-6

* **Worry & Anxiety, • Bitterness,**
* **Doubt • Selfishness,**
* **Guilt • Unhealthy Relationships**
* **Past Failures • Pride and Arrogance**
* For the Sake of Those You Love – *Shake It Off!*
* For the Sake of the God You Serve – *Shake It Off!*
* For the Sake of Your own Joy – *Shake It Off!*

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| **Shake It Off****(Don’t Buy the Lie)** | **Grab Onto. . .Truth****(Truth-based Living)** |
| **RESENTMENT —** I can’t forgive… | *"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."*Philippians 4:13 |
| **FEAR —** I’m filled with insecurity… | *"God hasn’t given me a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind."* 2 Timothy 1:7 |
| **Anxiety —** I just can't relax… | *"Cast all your cares on Christ because He cares for you."* 1 Peter 5:7*"Do not be anxious about anything…"* Philippians 4:6 |
| **DISCOURAGEMENT —** I’m ready to give up… | *"I can recall to my mind, and have hope; because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."* Lamentations 3:21-23*"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."* Galatians 6:9 |
| **ISOLATION —**I am all alone | *"The Lord will never leave you nor forsake you."* Hebrews 13:5 |
| **GUILT —**I am filled with shame… | *"There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."* Romans 8:1 |
| **FAILURE —**I can't picture future success… | *"In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."* Romans 8:37 |
| **STRESS —**I am overwhelmed by life’s pressures | *"In this world you will have tribulation, but take courage, I have overcome the world."* John 16:33 |
| **WEARY —**I am weak and exhausted | *"The Lord is the strength of my life."* Psalm 27:1 |
| **OPPOSITION —**I am under attack from the enemy | *"Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world."* 1 John 4:4 |
| **CONFUSION —**I lack wisdom and don’t know what to do | *"God generously gives wisdom to those who ask Him for it."* James 1:5 |
| **LACK OF FAITH —** I lack financial resources | *"My God shall supply all your needs accordingly to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."* Philippians 4:19 |