

Sermon 讲道信息
August 八月 31, 2025
Haggai 哈该书 2:4-5
Be Strong and Work 当刚强做工

Have you ever begun and project with such excitement, only to be overcome by frustration? I certainly have. 你是否曾满怀期待地开始某个项目，却最终被挫败感淹没？我确实经历过。

My family and I moved into our new place in early July. The place was unfurnished. This meant a lot of furniture to build. 七月初，我和家人搬进了不配备家具的新居，这意味着要组装大量家具。

Often, I began with high hopes, but soon reality set in. 我常满怀期望开始，但很快就被现实击垮。

The bedframe was trickier to assemble than I expected. 床架的组装比预想中更棘手。

Who knew a simple dresser would have this many parts? 谁想到简单的梳妆台竟有这么多零件？

And do not get me started on the baby crib. It was second hand and didn't come with an instruction.

至于婴儿床就更别提了——那是二手的，连说明书都没有。

At many points I found myself asking, do we really need a furnished home?

无数次我忍不住自问：我们真需要一个配备家具的家吗？

If you have ever felt the same, then you and I have something in common with the people of God in Haggai's time. 如你也曾有过同样感受，那么你我便与哈该时代神的子民有了共同点。

It had been 20 years since their return from exile in Babylon. 他们从巴比伦被掳归回已经 20 年。

Their task was to rebuild the temple of God in Jerusalem. 他们的任务是在耶路撒冷重建圣殿。

They started this mission with excitement. 他们满怀热忱地开始这使命。

But then the work got difficult. Opposition arose. Resources became scarce.

然而工作渐渐显得艰辛：阻力四起，资源匮乏。

And most disheartening of all, some of the people who remembered the greatness of the first temple saw the puny efforts of their labor and wept. They said "this is nothing compared to what we had before."

最令人沮丧的是，有些记得第一所圣殿荣光的人，看着眼前他们劳动后仍微不足道的结果，不禁落泪。他们说：“这与我们先前的圣殿相比，根本无法比较。”

It is in this moment of discouragement that God speaks to his people through the prophet Haggai.

正是在这丧气的时刻，上帝通过先知哈该向祂的子民说话。

We read in the beginning of verse 4 *"But now be strong"*. Be strong. This is what God commands 3 times in a row. 在第 4 节开头读到：“但现在你们要刚强”。要刚强，这是上帝连续三次的命令。

To Zerubbabel the governor and then to Joshua the high priest and then to all the people of the land.

先对省长所罗巴伯，再对大祭司约书亚，最后对那地的百姓。

This repetition is not by accident, it is very much by design. It tells us that strength is necessary for God's people to fulfill God's work.

这命令重复绝非偶然，而是精心设计的。它告诉我们：神的子民要成就神的工作，刚强是必不可少的。

But, what does biblical strength look like? What is God saying when he tells his people to be strong?

然而，合乎圣经的刚强究竟是什么样的呢？当神吩咐子民要刚强时，祂究竟在说什么？

Here, we need to tread carefully. 这里我们需要谨慎。

When God commands his people to be strong, he is not saying just toughen up and take it.

当上帝命令祂的子民要刚强时，祂并非要他们硬着头皮承受挑战。

He is not demanding them to manufacture strength from our own reserve.

祂不是要求他们从自身中强行制造刚强的力量。

He's not telling them to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. 祂不是叫他们靠自己努力挣扎取得成功。

Instead, God is calling them, calling us to remember. 相反，神呼召他们——呼召我们，去记得。

One bible teacher puts it this way: Consider when a loving parent says "Be strong" to a scared child, they're not invalidating the child's fear nor are they sending them away to shoulder the burden alone.

一位圣经教师如此阐释：试想一下，当慈爱的父母对恐惧的孩子说“要刚强”时，他们既不是否定孩子的恐惧，也不是将重担推给孩子独自承受。

Rather, they are calling the child to remember who the parent is and what the parent can do.
更准确地说，他们是在唤醒孩子对父母身份的认知，提醒孩子他的父母是谁，他们能成就什么。
They are inviting the child to draw on a strength greater than himself.
他们邀请孩子从超越他自己的父母身上取得力量。

This is the call of God to his people, then and now.这是神对祂子民的呼召，过去和现在的呼召。
To remember that he is the Almighty God.要记得祂是全能的上帝。

The God who enables what he commands. 是那位使祂所命定之事成就的上帝。

The God who said "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3), and light came into existence by the power of his word.
是那位单凭祂话语的权柄，说“要有光，就有了光”（创世记 1:3）的上帝。

The God-Man Jesus who commanded Lazarus to rise (John 11:43), and his word returned life back into dead bones. 神人耶稣曾命令拉撒路复活（约翰福音 11:43），祂的话使枯骨重获生命。

So, when God says to His discouraged people, "Be strong," these are not empty words, something nice to say and pleasant to hear. 因此，当神对灰心丧志的子民说“要刚强”时，绝非空谈，更非空洞的安慰话。

No, he's speaking strength into existence within his children, calling them to remember, to trust, and to obey.
不，祂说的话使祂儿女心中的有刚强的力量，呼召他们要记得、要信靠并要顺服。

When Paul says, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*" (Philippians 4:13), he's describing this reality.当保罗说：“我靠着那加给我力量的（基督），凡事都能做”（腓立比书 4:13），正是描述了这现实。

Our strength comes from God's infinite strength, bestowed upon us through our union with Christ.
我们的力量源自神的无限能力，借着我们与基督的联合而赐给我们。

What does this strength look like in the life of a believer? 这力量在信徒的生命中是怎样的呢？

It's the ability to rejoice and keep going when things are difficult.是困境中仍能喜乐前行的能力。

It's the courage to obey God in the face of opposition.是面对对抗仍敢顺服神的勇气。

It's the confidence to work for God's glory rather than human approval.

是为神的荣耀而非人的认可而努力做工的信心。

It's the perseverance to continue building even when the results don't look as impressive as we'd hoped.
是即使结果不如预期般理想，仍然坚持做工的毅力。

Be strong, declares the Lord Almighty 你们都当刚强，这是万军之耶和华说的。

God then gives another instruction to his people: work. 上帝接着向祂的子民发出另一指令：做工。

Be strong and work, he continues in verse 4. 祂在第 4 节继续说：都当刚强做工。

This command tells us another important truth about God: that he accomplishes his purposes in the world through his people.这命令向我们揭示了关于上帝的另一重要真理：祂通过祂的子民成就祂在世上的旨意。

He invites them, not to watch from the sideline, but to join in, to do his work.

祂邀请他们，不是在场边旁观，而是参与其中，做祂的工作。

As his builders, his agents, his representatives, and what is this work God calls his people to do?

作为祂的建造者、祂的代理人、祂的代表，那么神呼召祂子民去完成的工作是什么？

Rebuilding the temple, yes, but not just for its own sake.重建圣殿，是的，但非仅为了圣殿本身。

The temple they were rebuilding was more than architecture. It was a symbol of God's presence among his people.他们正在重建的圣殿超越了建筑的范畴，它象征了神在祂子民中间。

When these exiles built God's house, they were declaring that God reigns, that His kingdom advances, that His purposes will not be thwarted.

当这些被掳之民建造神的殿时，他们在宣告神的统治、祂国度的推进、祂的旨意必不被阻挠。

For us, 2,500 years later, God's calling upon our lives to do his work remains.

2,500 年后的今日，对我们来说，神的呼召依然临到我们的身上，叫我们去做祂的工。

Our mission is still to usher in the Kingdom of God as Christ commanded.

我们的使命仍是遵照基督的命令，迎接神国的降临。

That his lordship may reign in our church, in our homes, in our schools, in our work places, in our communities, and ultimately in the world.

使祂的主权掌管我们的教会、我们的家庭、我们的学校、我们的职场、我们的社区，最终遍及全世界。

It doesn't matter our vocation, our roles, or our responsibilities, our work today has significance.

无论我们的职业身份、角色定位或职责范围是什么，我们今日的工作皆具重大意义。

The teachers, the parents, the cooks, the pastors, the accountants, the office workers, counselors, the delivery drivers, the friends. We are all contributing to the building of God's kingdom right where he places us.

教师、父母、厨师、牧师、会计、办公室职员、辅导员、快递员、朋友——我们都在神安排的位置上，为建立祂的国贡献力量。

And here's what's beautiful:而最美妙的是：

Work—when done in proper relationship to God—becomes sacramental.

工作——在与上帝正确的关系中而做时——成为圣工。

When we work in response to God's command, depending on his strength, our work becomes worship.

当我们用工作来回应上帝的命令，倚靠祂的力量，我们的工作便成为敬拜。

Our work and ministry, in and outside of the church, is no longer just about completing a task or achieving a goal. 我们的工作与事奉，不论在教会内外，不再仅仅是完成任务或达成目标。

It becomes a way of honoring God, declaring our trust in him, and joining in his redemptive purposes.

它成为荣耀上帝的方法，宣告我们对祂的信靠，并参与祂的救赎计划。

God's people in Haggai's day had, for a time, stopped working on the temple.

哈该时代神的子民曾一度停止建造圣殿。

They had grown discouraged and turned their attention to their own houses, their own comfort, their own immediate needs. 他们变得灰心丧气，转而关注自己的房屋、个人的舒适与眼前的需求。

God was calling them back to the greater purpose for which He had brought them home from exile.

神呼召他们回归更宏大的使命——正是这使命，祂把他们从被掳引领归回。

We too sometimes need to hear this same call. 我们有时也需要聆听同样的呼召。

Sometimes, we allow ourselves to become so fearful of the unknown. We become obsessed with our current situation, our momentary comforts, our minor setbacks. We forget the work that God has called us to.

有时，我们容让自己过度畏惧未知。我们变得沉溺于现状、眼前的安逸与微小的挫折，竟忘了神呼召我们去完成的工作。

We stop building his kingdom and only build our own little kingdoms.

我们停止建立祂的国度，而只顾筑起自己的小王国。

God's call to "work" is an invitation to step back into his redemptive story.

上帝呼召我们“做工”，正是邀请我们重返祂的救赎故事。

It's a reminder that our lives have purpose beyond ourselves. 提醒我们，生命的意义远超于我们个人。

It's a reminder that the work we do for the glory of God will outlast anything we build for ourselves alone.

提醒我们，为荣耀上帝所做的工作，必将比我们为自己建造的一切持续更久。

Now we come to the heart of God's encouragement. 现在，我们来到了上帝鼓励的核心。

This is the foundation that makes everything else possible. 这是使万事皆有可能的根基。

We read at the end of verse 4: "*For I am with you, declares the Lord Almighty*".

我们在第4节末读到：“因为我与你们同在，这是万军之耶和华说的。”

Do you think the people realize what God is saying here? Do we? Do we actually comprehend the gravity of this statement?

你认为当时的人们明白上帝所说的话的含义吗？我们明白吗？我们是否真能领会这句话的严重性吗？

We hear it a lot, we hear it all the time. But do we fully understand the weight of these four words – "*I am with you*"?

我们常听见这句话，时时刻刻都在听见。但我们是否真正领会这四个字——我与你们同在——的分量呢？

This is the God who spoke the universe into existence; the one who sustains all things; the one whose glory fills the heaven and the earth.

这上帝是那位凭话语就创造了宇宙的主，是那位维持了万有的主宰、是那位荣耀充满天上地下的圣者。

This God says, *"I am with you."* Not *"I am watching you from a distance."* Not *"I am generally aware of your situation. But 'I am with you.'"*

这上帝说：“我与你们同在。”并非“我从远处观看你”；不是“我大致知晓你的处境”；而是“我与你们同在”。

And he doesn't stop there. God says to his people *"My Spirit remains among you."*

不止如此，上帝更对祂的子民说：“我的灵仍要住在你们中间。”

The same Spirit who empowered Moses and Joshua and the judges and the prophets before them.

This Spirit is still with them.

同一位圣灵，曾赋予摩西、约书亚、士师们和先知们能力。如今，祂仍要与他们同在。

The same power that opened the Red Sea and brought water from the rock and gave victory over enemies.

是同一位圣灵的能力叫红海分开，使水从磐石出来，让神的子民战胜仇敌。

This power is still available as they rebuild the house of God.

当他们重建上帝的殿时，这能力依然与他们同在。

This is where the gospel of Christ becomes so precious to us today.

这正是基督福音对我们今日来说的宝贵之处。

Through Jesus Christ, we don't just have God's Spirit among us, we have God's Spirit within us, poured out upon each one who believes.

通过耶稣基督，我们不仅有上帝的灵在我们中间，我们更有上帝的灵在我们里面、浇灌在每位信徒身上。

The presence that sustained Israel through it all now indwells every believer.

这样的同在，昔日扶持了以色列度过一切，如今祂内住每位信徒之中。

The power that enabled them to build the tabernacle now enables us to build God's kingdom here and now.

昔日使他们建造会幕的大能，如今使我们在此地此刻建立神的国。

When God says, *"I am with you"*, he is profoundly and intimately with us.

当神说“我与你们同在”，祂是深切而亲密地与我们同在。

When God commands us to be strong, the Spirit provides strength.当神命令我们要刚强，圣灵便赐下能力。

When God calls us to work, the Spirit empowers our labor.当神呼召我们做工，圣灵便赋予我们劳动的力量。

This is Christian living, the Spirit working in us "both to will and to do according to God's good pleasure"

(Philippians 2:13). 这就是基督徒的生命—圣灵在我们“心里运行，使（我）们又立志又实行，为要成就祂的美意”（腓立比书 2:13）。

He's guaranteeing that what He calls us to do, He will equip us to accomplish. He was with his people during the rebuilding of the temple.

神正是在保证：凡祂呼召我们去做，祂必赐我们能力成就。圣殿重建时，祂与祂的子民同在。

He is with us today as we build his Kingdom. *"I am with you, declares the Lord Almighty"*.

今日当我们建立祂的国，祂与我们同在。“我与你们同在。这是万军之耶和华说的。”

So what does this mean for us today? 那么，这对我们今日有何启示呢？

As we know, Pastor Callum will be completing his time here at Trinity. In fact, this is his final Sunday with us.

大家都知晓，Callum 牧师即将结束在三一教会的服事。事实上，今天是他与我们共度的最后一个主日。

With this, many of us might be wondering, what will happen to our church? Will we be able to continue the ministries we've built? Will we lose momentum?

面对此事，我们中有许多人或许在思索：我们的教会将何去何从？我们建立的事工能否延续？是否会失去发展势头？

These are natural concerns, and they echo much of what the people in Haggai's day were feeling.

这些担忧实属自然，与哈该时代百姓的心境相似。

They had gone through an exile, losing their sense of stability and continuity in the destruction of the temple.

他们历经被掳，圣殿被毁使他们丧失了安稳与延续感。

Upon their return, they probably felt like they were starting over from scratch. And when the work got difficult and progress seemed slow, discouragement set in.

归回后，或许他们觉得一切都得从头开始。当工作陷入困境并似乎进展缓慢时，沮丧便悄然而生。

But remember what God said to them, what he is saying to us. *"I am with you," "My Spirit remains among you."* 但记住上帝对他们说过的话、对我们说的话：“我与你们同在”，“我的灵仍要住在你们中间。”

Our strength doesn't come from having the ideal circumstances; our strength comes from the presence of Almighty God in our midst.

我们的力量并非源于理想的环境，而是源于全能上帝在我们中间与我们同在。

The same Spirit who empowered the early church, who has sustained Trinity through every season of its history, remains among us.

那曾赋予初期教会力量、支撑三一教会经历每段历史的圣灵，如今仍与我们同在。

Yes, we will dearly miss Pastor Callum's leadership and pastoral care. Yes, there will be an adjustment period as we navigate this transition.

诚然，我们会深深想念 Callum 牧师的领导与牧养。诚然，我们会面对过渡期会带来的调整阵痛。

But God is calling us to "be strong and work" because He is with us. Not just when things are smooth, but especially in seasons of change.

但神呼召我们“要刚强做工”，因祂与我们同在——不仅在顺境中，更在变更的时节里。

Practically, what might *"be strong and work"* mean for us during this time?

具体而言，“刚强做工”对此刻的我们意味着什么？

First, it means just that. 首先，就是刚强做工。

We continue the work God has already begun through us. 我们继续上帝已透过我们开展的事工。

We don't put ministry on hold until we find a new pastor. 我们不会因寻找新牧师而暂停事工。

We don't stop serving, stop reaching out, stop praying, stop praising, stop giving, stop caring for one another.

我们不会停止服侍、不停止外展事工、不停止祷告、不停止赞美、不停止奉献、不停止彼此关怀。

Second, it means we step up in new ways. 其次，这意味着我们在有机会时以新的方式采取行动。

God may be calling some of us to step into greater responsibility in this season.

在这个时节里，上帝或许正呼召我们中某些人承担更重大的责任。

He may be preparing you for leadership and service you never imagined you were capable of.

祂或许正在预备你去担起领导与服侍的任务——那是你从未想过自己能胜任的。

Third, it means we guard against the temptations of fear and nostalgia.

第三，这意味着我们要抵御恐惧和对往事怀念的诱惑。

It's easy to start looking backward, romanticizing the past; or forward with anxiety about the future. 沉溺于追忆往昔、将过去浪漫化，又或者因忧虑未来而焦灼前瞻，这都是很容易的。

But the Lord says *"I am with you,"* not *"I was with you when things were settled"* or *"I will be with you when you figure everything out."*

但主说：“我与你们同在”，并非“当一切都定下来时我曾与你们同在”；亦非“待你解决所有问题时我会与你们同在。”

He is with us, now, in this moment, in the life of Trinity. 祂此时此刻就与我们同在，在三一教会的生活里。

Lastly, it means we trust in God's supreme sovereignty. 最后，这意味着我们信靠上帝至高的主权。

Just as he used the exile and the return to accomplish his purposes in Haggai's day, He can use this period in Trinity's history to strengthen his people, to raise up new leaders, to focus our vision, to enrich our mission, and to deepen our dependence on him.

正如祂在哈该时代运用被掳与归回来成就祂的旨意，祂也能借三一教会这段时期，坚固祂的子民，兴起新的领袖，聚焦我们的异象，丰富我们的使命，深化我们对祂的倚靠。

The people in Haggai's day could have given up and said, *"this is too hard. What we're building isn't impressive enough. Let's just quit."*

哈该时代的百姓本可放弃说：“这太艰难了，我们建造的殿宇反正不够宏伟，不如就此停工。”

But God called them to keep building because He had plans for that modest temple they could never have imagined.

但神呼召他们继续建造，因为那简朴的圣殿背后有上帝的宏伟计划，是他们无法想象的。

In the same way, God has plans for Trinity. 同样，神对三一教会也有计划。

In our modest, everyday obedience and faithfulness. 就在我们平凡日常的顺服与忠心之中。

The Second Temple would indeed be smaller and less impressive than Solomon's temple。

第二所圣殿确实比所罗门所建的圣殿更小、更不壮观。

But do you know what happened to that modest temple? 但你可知在这简朴的圣殿发生了什么？

It was the temple where Jesus would later teach and minister. 耶稣后来在此教导人和牧养人。

It was in that temple that Simeon would hold the Christ child and proclaim, "My eyes have seen your salvation." 西面在此圣殿怀抱婴孩基督并宣告：“我的眼睛已经看见你的救恩。”

God used their faithful, modest work to accomplish his perfect purposes.

神使用他们忠心又谦卑的工作成就了祂完美的旨意。

The same will be true of his work through us. 祂通过我们所做的工也必如此。

So be strong, beloved of God. 所以，蒙神所爱的，要刚强。

Be strong, Trinity Baptist 三一浸信教会，要刚强。

Be strong in his strength. 靠祂的力量，要刚强。

Be strong in his covenant faithfulness. 靠祂立约的信实，要刚强。

Be strong in his Spirit. 靠祂的灵，要刚强。

And work. 并要做工。

Work knowing that "your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

做工，要知晓“你们在主里的劳苦不是徒然的”（哥林多前书 15:58）。

Work understanding that you're joining God's work that began in Eden, was secured at Calvary, and will be completed when Christ returns.

做工，要明白自己正参与神的工作——这工作从伊甸园开始，在各各他得到保障，并将随着基督再来而完成。

For he is with you. His Spirit remains among you and in you.

因祂与你们同在，祂的灵仍住在你们中间和里面。

To Him be the glory, both now and forever. Amen.

愿荣耀归于祂，从现在直到永远。阿们。