

## The stirring of the Lord

It is an interesting thought that the Lord is Sovereign. When we get to thinking too hard about it, we get lost in its mystery. Our frail and limited minds think only at one level, and the Lord's sovereignty expands so far beyond the reach of our grasp that it is almost tiring to try to decipher. We know from scripture that the Lord is sovereign, yet we still attempt to maintain a basis of control over our lives...calendars, kids, relationships, basically everything. We continue to use the pronoun "I" whenever we speak of something we did or an idea we came up with. We insist on taking credit for all sorts of occurrences in our day, to never think twice about it actually being the Lord's doing.

I am struck by the language in this passage as we read:

**14** So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God

Do you see how the people began to obey? They started the work on the temple. It makes sense right...God spoke, they heard, they obeyed. But can we actually obey? I think not. I don't think we are even capable of obeying! If you look at the text. The Lord stirred their spirits first...and then they began the work! I don't think we are even capable of one thought of our own. This idea is a bit mind blowing for me as I look at my days and all the things I just do because I foolishly believe I have the ability and capability to do them. Instead, the Lord does it all!

God is the one who stirs our spirits and causes us to move. He is the one not "I." As I reflect on the entire chapter 1 of Haggai, it brings a smile to my face as I once again see the loving grace of my heavenly Father. We see a reprimand, reminder, and reconstruction beginning. He has brought his people to Jerusalem, He has equipped them, His word came to them, and He stirred their spirits to begin work. The gentle stirring in your Spirit to do something, to pray for someone, to say something. It is the Lord. Unfortunately, most of us don't slowdown in our days enough to see this. So I wonder...how might you slow your pace and your mind down to relinquish the control you think you have and wait for the stirring of the Lord to move you? Is the Word of the Lord coming to you and do you hear, feel, and respond to it? Maybe each of us could pause before our words come out and give credit where credit is due for many things we falsely take the badge for?