

Christ-Centred(Foundational)	Empowering(grace)	Practical(Faith)	Contemporary(relevant)			Balanced(wise)
Point	what it means	Significance	Word pictures / examples / definitions			
21 st day Word...came to leaders... people	1 st message about priorities(God's abode or their?) 2 nd message got them stirred for the task and starting the job of building- now 3 wks later 21 days later- 3 rd message came	When turning back to God, or attempt something new -we need continual words along the way				
1/ Deal with the root of Disappointment Who saw the former place Compare the present temple Seems like nothing?	So they were disappointed as they compared things Former house had glory; was stunning-big, lots of gold, finished and complete Solomon's era- they had unlimited finances! The new place was unfinished, inferior, little resources, little man power! etc.... Seemed pitiful, contemptible- a nothing! Became frustrated and were already starting to tire!	<u>Start getting serious about church, The demon of Disappointment is there to destroy you:</u> <u>We become fixed, convinced in our minds that the new can never be better(or as good) than the old!</u> My church, my condition can never improve; its a nothing! Leads to feeling like things are a waste of time- people will give up! Root of disappointment can kill the little fire that God starts! Become weak and powerless if disappointed-no heart at all!	Start Serving in church; they drop off again? My new church, my new area of service can never be a good as my old one! Remember their big and successful church; this one seems like nothing! Few care groups, few facilities, few people you can relate too- heart grows cold, feel like why bother? -Seeds first, then roots grow, get fruits!	Start under new leader, but it doesn't work out My new shepherd, can never be a good as my old My new one seems as nothing; he has little time for me, doesn't know verses as well, stop communicating, things get worse- feel tired to come	Start a new thing in our spiritual walk, but gets hard we want to give up We discipline our kids, decide to do a family altar. Suddenly, there's tension in the family! My old life seems better, no struggles, no difficulty.... Things seem to be getting worse than better Eg Disappointment strikes! Why bother; old way is easy! More attractive, as a non-Christian. Tire to change! Never taste fruits.	Started with great enthusiasm to start a new pioneering work, but as time goes on give up Initially so excited and willing to sacrifice, But you work hard, few people help, limited resources! Have doubt, can this be done; how long? Start thinking about the good old days; feel it will never get there! Give up! Burn out! -other examples Gen.

- Introduction: As you get older it seems we get more and more tired; exercise and good food become vital

We can be spiritually lethargic too! How can we remain and find strength in God, continually overcome spiritual tiredness and continue to do God's work?? So we are physically strong as well?

- In Haggai we see how God can be our strength- through Jesus he provides us with rest-Do God's will and his presence comes! Don't have to be sad!

See Haggai 2:1-5- see several things about finding strength in God.

Point	Path	Left path	back on path	stay on path
Deal with the root of disappointment!	Keep your trust and focus on God, so you can be clear minded and vigilant 1PE 4:7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.	-too slow to Recognize disappointment; shut down spiritually before we know it! -Watch out that it does not become your prophecy; confess disappoint. determines your spiritual mood! -Numbers 16: Disappointment led to spirit of accusation against Moses, large scale rebellion, then division! – Many fell away, from grace at this time.	-But, let me encourage you! What's going on when I feel tempted to be disappointed? Things may need changes for the better-maybe you are the instrument to let people know! -Or sometimes, God is helping us grow up; others did the work before-now it's my turn! Now its time to put into practice what I have learned! -So volunteer your work; give advice!	Learn to discern when disappointment is becoming your focus rather than God. It's okay to evaluate and take stock, important, but guard against a festering feeling of resentment/disappointment! Problem is we get hurt or tested; we say I cant forgive, I cant give more, I cant change!..... disappointed Best way is - Be rooted in Christ- Instead of being rooted in disappointment. : <u>"In Christ, I can do</u> all things through him who strengthens me"

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2/ Remember that God's work requires God's strength! "Be strong, Zerrubabel, Joshua and all members of the community and work for I am with you" Be strong; keep working.... How? By, recognizing that I am with you to accompany you to enable you to do the work!	The were focusing on the former glory, the former time instead of God God said focus on me and continue to work; faith brings us into the present rather than retreating in the past!	We will not be able to keep working unless we learn that God's work requires God! When your feeling weak, spiritually tired, ask one question where's God?? God's there we are strong!	Gideon was stuck in the wine press hidden away, saw needs, but powerless until God said I am with you and he believed. Without knowing he is with us we are hidden away sometimes; when strengthened we easily call our non-believing friends, we make the tough calls of reconciliation	Nehemiah was trying to build a wall for God. God was with him. But, many conspirators tried to discourage him Prayed to God that hands not become weak; no matter how busy, he knew that God carried the work. He did hold a party etc...	Paul was tempted to complain about his thorn in the side. -But, God told its there so my grace will rest on you. Paul said therefore I delight in weaknesses and hardships! When I weak then I am strong! -God's strength made Paul's hardship, a joy and testimony!	We are in a day and age where depression is common. 300, 000 prescriptions recorded! Starts with feeling down and not able to cope with life! Pills are a crutch because people cant handle life without God; never intended that way!

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<p>2/ God's work requires God's strength!</p> <p>Be strong and do the work...For I am with you!</p>	<p>So what must we do?</p> <p>Stay reliant on God and his strength to do his work.</p>	<p>Problem is we don't realize how much we need God to do his work. Or we are not focused on calling so it seems easy enough-like player who never gets dirty Too easily distracted. God is power source!</p> <p>-Samson did not realize that the Lord had left him; he lost all strength! He was tempted by Delilah; he thought he could handle temptation in his own strength; he never prayed! Flaunted!! Little by little his spiritual strength ebbed away until he was on empty</p> <p>We must be careful of remaining weak willed and never trusting God's word We are Double minded- James 4:</p>	<p>Don't wait till empty all the time! Look at your efficiency; recognize your wasting time!</p> <p>Prioritize God first, with prayer life to match.</p> <p>Don't set your agenda around yourself, and fit God in, but set your agenda around God, and fit other things in!</p> <p>First:.....F I R S T...</p> <p>1/Finances 2/Interests 3/Relationships 4/Schedule 5/Talents</p> <p>-Be prayerful over all.</p>	<p>We are a like a phone being recharged. The voltage ensures that we are filled with power. We are seated with Christ in heavenly realms. We have no power of our own, but God used his mighty power to raise Christ from the dead. His power is in me; if I allow that divine exchange.</p> <p>Need to sit at his feet like Mary and get recharged. Listen to preaching tapes over and over. Don't leave until you sense God's power over discouragement and fear etc....</p> <p>Testing wil come-Change your attitude toward tough times: Learn to react by looking to God!</p> <p>1 Sam30: David found strength in the Lord God used it to exalt him and establish him as a strong leader. Troubles are a blessing!</p> <p>Had a friend once who was strong, used to listen to one tape 10x; then he got burned, stopped all together!</p>

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<p>3/ Remove fear; God's never leaving Covenanted with you.... Do not fear</p>	<p>I am stuck to you. I will not leave you; remember my track record in Egypt?! I was always there right. Don't fear!</p>	<p>We need to come to that place where know God will never break his promises/ his covenant Problem was the Temple was a nothing in their sight; how could God be there?</p>	<p>Over and over they faced overwhelming Circumstances God was there each time: Children of Israel were surrounded!</p>	<p>God covenanted to be there God! Widow feared the death of her son! She forgot she was in covenant- Accused the man of God... But, God had not left; her son was healed. Do you expect the worse; let your fear dominate of believe and trust that God is with you?! Had times that circumstances totally contradict that God is with me.</p>	<p>Hardest times! Obeying God meant denying my intelligence! Many a time, I stood up for truth in my office knowing that it may cost me my job! God was with me. Desperately needed a new job; my dream job came along. Terms were great just it meant working on Sundays. Every one did including the CEO. Parents friends all said you must. But, I knew God was with me; he would make a way! I gave my terms; no Sundays! God blessed me!</p>	
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<p>3/ Remove fear, God's never leaving!</p>	<p>God is the God of covenant. He is with us despite circumstances</p> <p>They made covenants by cutting animal in two. May that happen to party who breaks it! He has promised to stay among us!</p>	<p>We think that God is with us according to circumstances.</p> <p>So, easy to accept God is with us in good times; times where we are surrounded by good friends, but, when we are alone, many demands on you, facing life's pressures-hard!</p> <p>The temple was not built; it looked hopeless! People were distracted; easy to make excuses when circumstances are not conducive.</p>	<p>We need to understand covenant. When we marry we can't walk out if we feel like it. We can't sleep at night if we argue with spouse and want to stop talking. Bible says do not let the sun go down on your anger. We cannot separate; we have made vows before God.</p> <p>God's like that too. He will never leave us. He loves us! That's why we don't fear no matter what!</p> <p>We need to wait a long time sometimes like Abraham- 25 years; covenant helped him!</p>	<p>Fears are in us. God will allow us to experience our fears, so we see how weak we really are, so we stay close to him.</p> <p>We discover our fears sometimes; "what I have feared has come upon me!" But, we learn to trust God more and more in life. We used to try and control everything including people! We learn to love people and let God be God! - I did a drama once; I was holding a toy and not willing to let go; that was my life: God cant pass a new thing if we hold too tight! God will never leave us. He always acts according to his covenant!</p>
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<p>Conclusion:</p>				<p>God wants us to come to that place where the new can be better than the old!</p> <p>We are positive about life and ministry!</p> <p>WHY? Because it's God's work!</p>
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