

- I. In regard to God's _____.
- a. Setbacks may seem to _____ but never ultimately _____ God's work. (*Ezra 5:1-5; 6:14-15; Psalm 115:3; Ezekiel 12:28; Lamentations 2:17; Jeremiah 1:12; Joshua 21:45*)
 - b. God's _____ being accomplished is wedded to God's _____ being heralded. (*Ezra 5:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12*)
 - c. God's work is accomplished through God's people, but God can _____ it through _____. He wishes. (*Ezra 6:1-15; Proverbs 21:1*)
- II. In Regard to God's _____.
- a. We must listen to God's _____ as given by His _____. (*Ezra 5:1-2; 6:14*)
 - b. We must not let the _____ of opposition keep us from Spirit-prompted action. (*Ezra 5:3-5*)
 - a. We must see ourselves as God's _____ committed to His work and not our own agendas. (*Ezra 5:11; 1 Corinthians 15:58*)
 - b. We must see ourselves and our history with _____ and understand that disobedience has _____. (*Ezra 5:12*)
 - c. We must interact with the wider world with _____ to God's purposes and _____ for those over us. (*Ezra 5:17; Proverbs 15:1; 16:24*)
- III. In Regard to God's _____.
- a. God knows how to raise up _____ and _____ to galvanize His people. (*Ezra 5:1, 5; 6:14*)
-

- b. God knows how to move the _____ of those in positions of _____ to permit His work to prosper.
(Ezra 5:5; 6:3–12; Proverbs 21:1)
- c. God knows how to move the _____ of the _____ so that God's people "_____ the Egyptians" to achieve His purposes.
(Ezra 6:8–9; Exodus 12:36; Psalm 50:10; James 4:2)

IV. In Regard to God's _____.

- a. Our worship is to be _____.
(Ezra 6:16, 22; 1 Peter 1:8–9; Psalm 95)
- b. Our worship is to be _____.
(Ezra 6:18; John 4:24)
- c. Our worship is to be done in _____.
(Ezra 6:17; 1 Corinthians 11:26)
- d. Our worship may not always be as _____ as it once was, but if it is _____ and _____, God is pleased nonetheless.
(Ezra 6:17; 1 Kings 8:63; Mark 12:41–44; Revelation 3:14–17)
- e. Our worship is for those who are seeking to _____ the Lord.
(Ezra 6:21; Romans 10:9–13; Revelation 19:6–9)

Additional Notes:



Diving Deeper in Scripture Together

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

Ezra 5-6

-
1. God distinguishes between delay and denial. Where might you be tempted to assume that a delay means God has said "no," rather than "not yet"?
 2. The people became consumed with building their own homes while God's house remained neglected. In what ways can comfort, busyness, or personal ambition slowly distract believers from God's kingdom priorities today?
 3. Ezra 5 shows that opposition reappeared almost immediately once the work resumed. Why do believers sometimes assume that resistance means they are outside God's will, when Scripture often teaches the opposite?
 4. God used the preaching of Haggai and Zechariah to awaken His people from spiritual complacency. What does this teach us about the relationship between God's Word and spiritual renewal?
 5. Ezra 5:12 shows the people honestly acknowledging the consequences of past disobedience. How can someone acknowledge real sin without remaining trapped in shame or hopelessness? Why is humility about past failure key for spiritual growth?
 6. The returning exiles offered far less than Solomon once did, yet God was pleased with their sincere worship. Where are you tempted to measure spiritual health by outward impressiveness, productivity, numbers, talent, or appearance rather than by heartfelt faithfulness?
 7. The sermon repeatedly emphasizes that God raises up workers, leaders, and resources at the proper time. Are you currently more focused on what you lack or on what God has already entrusted to you?

8. Ezra 6 shows God's people celebrating with joy after a long and painful season. Are you better at noticing what is still lacking or rejoicing in what God has already done?
9. The returning remnant obeyed even though their work seemed small compared to the glory of Solomon's temple. Where are you tempted to despise "small" acts of faithfulness because they seem insignificant, unnoticed, or unimpressive?
10. The rebuilding began when God stirred His people through His Word. How can we specifically pray for our own hearts — and for our churches — to become more hungry, responsive, and obedient to Scripture rather than merely familiar with it?
11. Ezra reminds us that discouragement and opposition can slowly wear down God's people over time. Where do you personally need prayer for renewed perseverance, courage, or faithfulness? How can this group help pray for and strengthen one another in those areas?
12. Ezra 6 describes worship marked by joy, sincerity, and faith. Let us pray for God to deepen the authenticity of our worship so that Christ is treasured more fully among us.