

Text: Ezra 1:5-2:70
Topics: Courage, Faith, Restoration, Worship
Series: Courage to Trust God's Promises

Monroe Bible Church
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When God Stirs...

When people submit to God's stirring, God's restoring moves forward.

I. The Source of a Stirring (1:5-11)

*People arose to go and build the temple (5)
Others gave of their possessions (6)
Cyrus gave the temple articles (7-11)
When God was working out His promises, He stirred people to respond in faith.*

II. The Reason in the Stirring (2:1-63)

*The people that went (2:1-63)
The reason people went – Worship!
Those who responded to God's stirring reflected submission to a worship relationship with God.*

III. The Response of the Stirred (2:64-70)

*The numbers are given (64-67)
More gifts are given (68-69)
Settling in cities (70)
The trip...
Those who responded to God's stirring showed courage to act in faith.*

*Has God been stirring my heart?
Is there a restoring that God desires in my life?
Am I responding with faith, submission, and courage toward Him?*

Application Questions - These questions are provided for your further study and application of the subject of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out answers to these questions will help drive home the point. They are designed to be discussed in your home, with other believers, and in a Life Group, for even more benefit.

1. Can you think of someone you know who exemplified responding to God's stirring in a way that took a lot of faith and courage? Explain.

2. Read 1 Kings 8:54-61. After Solomon finished his prayer of dedication, how did he say he wanted God to "stir" the peoples' hearts?

Read David's prayer of thanking God in 1 Chronicles 29:10-19. How had God stirred hearts, and what did David pray God would stir hearts toward?

From Philippians 2:13, how did Paul assure his readers that God was stirring their hearts?

Can you give an example of God stirring your heart, either currently, or in the past? How are you, or did you, respond? What were the results?

3. Read Deuteronomy 10:12-21. What kind of response did God reveal to Israel that He wanted from them?

What would you consider the hardest of these responses to God? Why?

4. From the following New Testament passages, what kind of response does God want from us?

Hebrews 11:6; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8

James 2:20, 26; Galatians 5:6

John 4:23

Are any of these areas of response to God particularly challenging to you? Explain.

5. What is the main application of this study, and/or the sermon and its passages, for you?