

SERIES:MAKE IT PLAIN

Essential Vision for 2024

SERMON: BUILD - PART TWO

3-17-24

OPENER:

“MAKE IT PLAIN” series

Habakkuk 2:2 (NKJV) Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.

REVIEW PART 1:

Matthew 16:13-16 (NKJV) ¹³ When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

¹⁴ So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven

¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

THE ROCK UPON WITH THE CHURCH WILL BE BUILT IS JESUS AND AN ENCOUNTER WITH HIM WILL BE WHAT THE CHURCH IS BUILT UPON.

> Jesus said, “I” will build my church. Since Jesus is the builder of His church, any church built by anyone else cannot be the true church of Jesus Christ. JESUS IS THE ONE WHO IS BUILDING THE CHURCH.

>Jesus said, I will build “MY” church. The church was bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ. We are His.

> ”church” — Notice that the word is singular, Jesus never promised to build more than one church. Though there are numerous congregations of that one church, there is only one church that is found in the pages of the Bible.

> Jesus said, He would give the church His authority upon this earth. He said, “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”.

The church has been given spiritual keys to lose and to bind.

There is no authority found in the Bible anywhere else that is greater than the spiritual authority the local church carries.

THE CHURCH IS IN REFORMATION

(I am not just talking about our church, but the universal church on this planet).

The Lord, by the power of Holy Spirit is moving, growing, expanding, stretching, rebuilding and reforming His church into His initial purpose and plan for her. We can say that the Lord is remodeling His church.

**TO REMODEL SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO TEAR DOWN
BEFORE YOU CAN BUILD.**

**GOD IS TEARNG DOWN MANMADE SYSTEMS OF THE CHURCH.
GOD IS RIDDING THE CHURCH OF SIN, APATHY, FALSE TEACHINGS, AND
HYPOCRISY AND CALLING FOR
HOLINESS AND COMMITMENT.**

**GOD IS MAKING HIS CHURCH READY TO BE A BRIGHT LIGHT IN THE DARK
DAYS AHEAD - A CITY ON A HILL FOR
THE WORLD TO SEE.**

**THE FIRST THING THE LORD IS DOING IS FIRING UP THE FOUNDATION OF HIS
CHURCH.**

HE IS OUR FOUNDATION.

HE IS THE ROCK.

**THE CHURCH IS NOT BUILT ON MAN OR FOR ANY MAN'S GLORY BUT CHRIST
ALONE.**

SERMON: BUILD - PART 2

OPENER:

So, Jesus is the Rock on which the church is built.
Since the church is not a building or a place you go, but a called people,
assembling together to seek God and His kingdom.

What do we need to understand about building upon the rock of Jesus?
What does it mean for us?

There are two things that we build upon the foundation of Jesus:
The Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

1. WE BUILD UPON THE FOUNDATION BY HEARING AND DOING THE WORD OF GOD

Jesus said this is what we build on

Matthew 7:24-27 (NLT) Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶ But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

(EXPLAIN): Jesus is using symbolism in saying that your life is like a house that you are building. In this parable, the difference between these men did not lie in

the tests to which their houses were subjected. Each man's house had to endure the same storm. The Lord has never offered anyone a storm-free passage to heaven. What was the real difference between these men and their houses? The wise man built on a strong foundation and the foolish man built on sand.

JESUS IS CLEAR. BUILDING ON THE ROCK MEANS HEARING AND DOING THE WORD OF GOD.

James 1:22 (NKJV) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Our lives will stand against the storms of this life if we have fashioned and modeled and shaped and constructed our lives according to the Word of God. If we live our lives in obedience to the Word of God they will be strong and able to stand.

IT IS GOD'S WORD THAT IS ABLE TO BUILD A STRONG LIFE OF FAITH, LAID UPON THE FOUNDATION OF CHRIST HIMSELF.

2. THE RELATIONSHIP OF CHRIST AND THE BIBLE

This brings us to a subject of supreme importance of our Christian faith: The relationship of Christ and the Bible. In other words, the relationship of each believer to the Bible.

Throughout its pages the Bible calls itself "*The Word of God*". Also in a number of passages the same title of "The Word" or the "*Word of God*" is given to Jesus Christ himself.

For example, let's look at scripture.....

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Revelation 19:13 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

**THIS IDENTITY OF NAME REVEALS AN IDENTITY OF NATURE.
THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD AND CHRIST IS THE**

**WORD OF GOD.
EACH IS THE DIVINE, AUTHORITATIVE AND PERFECT REVELATION OF GOD.
EACH AGREES PERFECTLY WITH THE OTHER.**

**THE BIBLE PERFECTLY REVEALS CHRIST AND CHRIST
PERFECTLY REVEALS THE BIBLE.**

**THE BIBLE IS THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD AND CHRIST IS THE PERSONAL
LIVING WORD OF GOD.**

3. OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE BIBLE IS PROOF OF DISCIPLESHIP

**IF CHRIST IN THIS SENSE IS PERFECTLY ONE WITH THE BIBLE, THEN OUR
RELATIONSHIP TO THE BIBLE MUST BE THE SAME AS OUR RELATIONSHIP TO
CHRIST.**

John 14:23 (NKJV) If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴ He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

"Keep" = to observe; to obey (future tense)

1 John 2:4-5 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

"Perfected" = to made complete; fully accomplished

We see from these two passages :

- > The keeping of God's Word distinguishes you as a true disciple.**
- > The Lord manifests himself to us through His Word.**
- > The way we "abide": remain and stay in Christ is through obeying His Word.**

**LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY....
YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD'S WORD IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD JESUS
HIMSELF.**

**IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE JESUS, THEN ASK YOURSELF
HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE HIS WORD.
HOW MUCH DOES GOD'S WORD MEAN TO YOU?**

YOU DO NOT OBEY GOD MORE THAN YOU OBEY HIS WORD.

YOU DO NOT HAVE MORE ROOM IN YOUR HEART AND LIFE FOR JESUS MORE THAN YOU HAVE FOR HIS WORD.

**IF YOU HAVE COMMITTED YOUR LIFE TO JESUS - YOU HAVE COMMITTED YOUR LIFE TO HIS WORD.
THE TWO GO HAND IN HAND.**

Besides "*The Word*" as a name for Jesus, the prophet Isaiah listed other names of Jesus.....

Isaiah 9:6 He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

WE CAN'T JUST ASK FOR CHRIST'S COMFORT AND PEACE WITHOUT SEEKING HIS COUNSEL.

WE CAN'T JUST SEEK HIS TOUCH WITHOUT SEEKING HIS INSTRUCTION.

HE IS BOTH COUNSELOR AND COMFORTER.

THIS IS CHRIST IN HIS FULLNESS.

THIS IS WHAT THE CHURCH IS BUILT UPON.

4. WE BULD UPON THE FOUNDATION BY GOD'S SPIRIT

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (NKJV) Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

"quench" - extinguish, put out

> It is wrong to quench any genuine manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

> It is wrong to despise any prophecy given through the Holy Spirit.

> On the other hand, it is vitally necessary to test any manifestation of the Spirit, or any prophecy in reference to the standard of the scriptures and to accept and retain only those manifestations or prophecies that are in full agreement with the Word of God.

NO DOCTRINE, NO PRACTICE, NO PROPHECY, NO REVELATION IS TO BE ACCEPTED IF IT IS NOT IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE WORD OF GOD.

NO PERSON, NO CHURCH AND NO ORGANIZATION HAS THE AUTHORITY TO OVERRIDE OR DEPART FROM THE WORD OF GOD.

There is a great worldwide outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the last days and we are in those days. I believe there will be great signs and wonders and miracles that will come with this outpouring.

But the Scripture warns us that, side by side with this increased activity and manifestations of the Holy Spirit there will be a parallel increase in the activity of demonic forces which always seek to oppose God's people and God's purpose on the earth.....

Matthew 24:23-25 (NKJV) Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand.

1 Timothy 4:1-3 (NKJV) Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³ forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

The safeguard against being deceived by these forms of religious error is to believe and know the truth - the truth of God's Word.

WE NEED TO LAY HOLD OF A GREAT GUIDING PRINCIPLE ESTABLISHED IN THE SCRIPTURE.

IT IS THIS: GOD'S WORD AND GOD'S SPIRIT SHOULD ALWAYS WORK TOGETHER IN PERFECT HARMONY AND UNITY.

WE SHOULD NEVER DIVORCE THE WORD FROM THE SPIRIT OR THE SPIRIT FROM THE WORD.

IT IS NOT GOD'S PLAN THAT THE WORD EVER WORK APART FROM THE SPIRIT OR THE SPIRIT APART FROM THE WORD.

5. HOW THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT WORK TOGETHER

We see this illustrated in the Psalms in the account of the creation.....

Psalm 33:6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath(Spirit) of his mouth.

This word here translated "*Breath*" is actually the normal Hebrew word for "Spirit".

ILLUSTRATION:

As God's Word goes out of His mouth so does Spirit. On a human level, each time we open our mouths to speak a word our breath naturally goes out of our mouth with our words. So it is with God - HIS WORD IS SPIRIT THAT GOES OUT OF HIS MOUTH. In this way, God's Word and God's Spirit are always together, perfectly united in one single divine operation.

Genesis 1:2 The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light."

So, God's Word went forth. God pronounced the word "*light*". And as the Word and the Spirit were united creation took place. Light came into being and God's purpose was fulfilled.

WHAT WAS TRUE OF THE GREAT ACT OF CREATION IS ALSO TRUE IN THE LIFE OF EACH INDIVIDUAL.

**GOD'S WORD AND GOD'S SPIRIT UNITED IN OUR LIVES
CONTAIN ALL THE CREATIVE POWER AND
AUTHORITY OF GOD HIMSELF.**

**BUT IF WE DIVIDE THESE TWO FROM ONE ANOTHER IN OUR LIVES,
SEEK SPIRIT WITH THE WORD OR STUDYING THE WORD APART FROM THE
SPRIT WE CAN EASILY GO ASTRAY AND MISS GOD'S PLAN.**

**TO SEEK THE MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SPIRIT APART FROM THE WORD WILL
END UP IN FOOLISHNESS AND ERROR.**

**TO PROFESS THE WORD APART FROM THE ANOINTING AND CONVICTION OF
THE SPIRIT RESULTS IN DEAD, POWERLESS LEGALISM AND RELIGIOUS
FORMALISM.**

**TO SEEK THE LORD'S PRESENCE APART FROM HIS WORD IS TO NOT SEEK HIS
FULLNESS.**

Media: Show JESUS FOUNDATION slide on screen

The strong foundation of the church is Jesus revealed through His Word and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Media: Show slide of Smith Wigglesworth prophecy
(Share small bio of Wigglesworth and comment on his prophecy)

CLOSING:

HOW DO WE INDIVIDUALLY BUILD UPON THE FOUNDATION OF JESUS?

1. Allow God to reform you.

> Ask yourself, what is the Lord wanting to remodel in my life?

> Is there something in your life that has been constructed that is an idol that the God wants to tear down.

> Is there a habit or a practice that is not building holiness and interfering with my ability to obey the Lord and walk in His ways.

> Is there a person that is destructive to my closeness with God and .

> Is God asking for you to rearrange your time to make time to serve Him by walking in agreement with His Word?

2. Make sure your foundation is strong.

> Do you have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ? And do you personally encounter Him often during the week?

> Is your life built according to His design for you in His Word?

> Just as Jesus was the living Word are you living out the Word in your own life?

> Do you seek His presence. Do you experience the life giving power of the Holy Spirit in your personal time with Him?

> Do you allow the Holy Spirit to fill you?

> Do you engage in personal Bible reading and study?

> Would you call yourself a disciple of the Word of God?

> Do you apply ALL the teachings of the Word to your life?

3. Be okay with change.

> Allow God to make some needed changes in your life. Do not fear the changes.

> Be okay with some needed changes in the church.

The worst thing that you can do, is be a stick in the mud and say, I like it this way.

Or I like the way it use to be. Or why is the church stopping that? Support the changes. The church is not going backwards. It is moving forward.

The church shouldn't be tied to a system of doing things. We should not be tied to traditions. We should be tied to Christ.

