

Preventing cracks 1 Kings 9:4-9

- In **2 Cor 4:7** we are described as Jars of clay, did you know that clay is highly prone to cracking, because it shrinks as it dries and expands when it gets wet, creating internal stress and tension causing it to crack, that's us.
- We are leaky vessels that are prone to crack, for when internal stress and tension hit us then we begin to shrink on the inside, drying up in our fears and doubts, causing us to sweat, worry, and cry, leading to cracks and us falling apart on the outside, the only thing keeping us together is the Power of God The Holy Spirit that is living on the inside of us.
- But we have to tap into that Power don't we, listening to its truth and not believing the lies bombarding our thoughts telling us its too late, or we can fix it, when in reality we need to be still and know that He is God > **Ps 46:10**. When we do that then we can apply **1Jn 2:24-25** where we abide in what we've heard from the beginning, keeping us looking to and trusting in The Son and The Father for His Promises are true.

V4-9

- The temple was not just a place for Israel and OT people to worship but also a picture of believers being built up in the Lord. In **1 Kings 5:17** we find a detailed description of the type of materials used to lay the foundation.
 - A. Large stones- strong
 - B. Costly stones- expensive and precious
 - C. Hewn stones- pre cut
- A-C makes sense, the materials need to be strong and to fit perfectly but why would you use costly materials for something that won't be seen? Because most erosion begins on the inside before we ever see them on the outside and by that time its too late the damage has been done, and it's the same spiritually.
- **Eph 2:19-22** tells us what's needed for us to have a strong base to prevent cracks.
 - 1. **Apostles-prophets**- strong accurate teaching, **Col 2:6**- growing in the knowledge of God has nothing to do with hearing voices but knowing His word
- Story-oak-shade tree-God desires us to dig in before we branch out. The word doctrine-instruction, teaching, is used almost 50 times in the NT, showing us how serious God is about teaching and understanding His word. **2 Tim 2:15**- 3 words

1. Study
2. Workman

3. Rightly divide

- Implies that it's costly to become knowledgeable of the word of God- **time-energy, perspiration before there can be revelation.** Just as strong stones are necessary for a strong base to protect a house from crumbling when facing adverse conditions so is accurate teaching needed to keep us stable and secure in the promises of God- **Eph 4:13-14.**

2. Jesus Christ-

- A cornerstone was the most important piece of the foundation because it squared and leveled the whole building without it the building would lean and be in danger of toppling over so it had to be the most dependable of stones making it also the most valuable.
- It's the same with us grace was free but certainly not cheap, bought by the precious blood of Jesus who although we cannot see with our natural eyes, He our chief cornerstone keeps us from toppling over from the trials of life **Act 4:11**

3. Body of believers

- **V21** says the building or stones grow, can rocks grow? The only way something can grow is if it's alive and not only alive but shaped and cut to fit perfectly **1Kings 6:7**-the stones were chiseled and cut at the quarry before reaching the temple, **just like us right now our quarry the world is pounding and shaping us into what God desires us to be. One day there will be no hammer or chisel chipping away at us because we will be complete Philip 1:6.**
- **Eph 2:22**-we are a house for God growing together, if you want to protect yourself and others from cracking, decay and ruin, **then strong teaching, Jesus being your focus and fellowship with growing believers must be a focal part of your life**