

“Next Level Faith” #5

Matthew 16:13-19 *“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?’ So they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ 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. 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. 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.”*

Intro:

- Did you know, it take Next Level Faith to build the Lord’s Church!
- Few People step up to this level of faith in Christ.
- That is, the faith it takes to build the Lord’s Church, His body, His family, His army in a hostile, fallen world.

Next Level Faith To Build His Church

- Jesus looked at His disciples and asked them a question. **“Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”**
- Why did he ask it? This question cuts to bedrock of faith that needs to exist in you and me for Jesus to use us. I trust, that like Peter, your answer is, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**
- What was Jesus helping His disciples discover?
 - If they had Next Level Faith to build what He is Building/doing in the world.
- You see... no longer was the Spirit of God going to dwell in a Temple made with hands in Jerusalem.
- Now, the Spirit of God was going to dwell in hearts of people from every tribe, nationality, and people group.
- Jesus had plans. He had big plans, for a much larger temple, a House of His Presence in the world.
- Peter was on the right track.
- In response to Peter’s answer, Jesus said...
- **“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 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. 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.”**
- In this moment, Jesus was taking Peter’s faith to a whole new level.

- You see, Jesus had shown His disciples how to pray, teach, and preach the good news of the Kingdom of God, and how it produced hope in people.
- Jesus had demonstrated to His disciples what it looked like when a demonized, tormented man was set free Satan's snare.
- Jesus had shown them humility, gentleness, forgiveness, and wisdom when a prostitute named Mary was saved from the killing-stones of her accusers.
- This was all vital training for those with whom Jesus had personally chosen to build His Church!
- Now, Jesus needed to take their faith to a whole new level.

When Jesus said, "***blessed are you...***"

- Jesus was now releasing a ***new revelation*** that would make them "***Master Builders***" of new temple not made with hands: A superstructure of the Holy Ghost call the Church of Living God, The Church Triumphant!
- This is what He is doing for you and I right now!
- He's releasing the revelation it takes for next level faith

The Apostle Paul would later write this about the Church:

- ***1 Corinthians 3:9-17 "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are."***

Why such strong words/warning in the end here? Two reasons:

1. ***Jesus*** paid such a high and holy price to build His glorious Church, of which you and I are a part.
2. The Church Jesus is building is ***sacred*** to Him, because it is made up of the people, His children that He redeemed, He loves, and longs to use in advancing His purpose.

Are you beginning to see why it takes ***next level faith*** to build His church.

- No longer can any of us dismiss the church as something irrelevant, not worthwhile, not worth effort, sacrifice!
- The Apostle wrote again...

- ***Ephesians 2:19-22 “You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”***
- ***Ephesians 4:8-16 “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men... And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and for and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”***

I said all that to get you to this point...Have you thought about your **faith** in relation to building the church?

- I understand that much of our time is consumed with personal concerns, issues, pain, success, and build a future for us and our families.
- Jesus wants you to know he is with you, to give you a hope & future.
- Jesus wants you to have next level faith for your healing, finances, future spouse, your child, your business.

But He is looking at you and me today, like He did Peter and His Disciples, asking questions like...

- “Will you build My Church with me?”
- “Will you take My keys and set captive-sinners free?”
- “Will you build My house, My family in in this community?”
- “Will you love one another so that they will know the Father has sent me to them?”
- “Will you build My Church with the leaders I have raised up here?”
- “Will you stand against the gates of Hell with me and crush them with me, to see My Church grow with new disciples?”

IF YOUR ANSWER IS, **YES**... THE QUESTION MUST BE, **HOW**?
IT TAKES NEXT LEVEL FAITH TO DO IT!

I refuse to complicate building His Church at this point...This is How Jesus builds His Church...Jesus builds His church one person at a time.

- He finds ordinary sinners like you and me, fills them with the Holy Spirit and turns them people with next level faith to build the church.
- He found His 12, then 70, then the 120, then 3000...
- Then the church grew stronger, and stronger. Why!
- Because they had Next Level Faith to make His building His Church a top priority.

I remember when Jesus called me to start this church...

- The 1st thing I did was pray and believe I could do it!
- Nearly everything possible Satan could throw at me happened in the beginning stages, but God moved out all my enemies.
- The second thing I did was confirm with Kim.
- **“One can put 1,000 to flight, but two can put 10,000...”**
- The third thing I did was look for individuals with next level faith the help me and Jesus build it.
- We started with 2, then 12, then 120 on launch day.

Jesus is not done building his church here, it's just now starting!

- The harvest in this community is on His mind is in the 1,000's, to bring here!

How Do We Use Next Level Faith To Build His Church?

1. Like Jesus, prayerfully make people and their eternal soul a priority! – This takes Next Level Faith!
2. Make introducing people to Jesus and His family a priority!
3. Make growing this House, the Lord's Church with people a priority! – This Takes Next Level Faith!

The early church made these things, and more a priority!

- ***Acts 2:41-47 “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”***

Concluding Thoughts:

- This is what I know... we must have next level faith to build the Church with Jesus purposely, faithfully, supernaturally!

- We must pray for family and friends, work associates and neighbors that God is working in others to save them and join us in making a house for His presence.
- The word of God says we are simultaneously His house & building His House with Him.
- We are living stones together as a dwelling place of God!
- Do you see why Satan wants to destroy it, keep you out of fellowship with God's people.
- Will you help me, our fivefold leaders team build the Lord's church?

Declaration:

Heavenly Father, thank you for saving me!

Thank you for bringing me to LifeChurch!

Thank you for the leader and members of this, your Church!

Thank you for giving me a vision of what you are building!

Thank you that you have given me next level faith to build it!

Thank you that the gates of hell can not prevail against me, or what we are building!

Thank you that I have the key of the kingdom of Heaven!

Thank you that I can expect salvations, healings for others

I will be faithful to you, Your House, Your Cause, Your people

Thank you for your love, grace and power to do this!

In Jesus Name I pray, Amen!