

## CALVARY DISTINCTIVES | SERVANT LEADERSHIP CLASS NO.4

### TOPIC: Building the Church God's Way

I. Knowing the Builder | II. Trusting the Builder | III. Striving with the Builder

**Intro:** When a desire to build something arises, **there should first be a plan.** In (Luke 14:28-30) Jesus tells a parable, *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it- lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'* – It is in the very nature of man to *strive to build things*...most of which are in vain. This should not be the case when **building the Church**, because it has to be done **God's way!**

**I. KNOWING THE BUILDER – HIS PLAN!** – Before the foundation of the earth, God had a master plan to build His Church. He had patiently waited for centuries to unfold this great mystery. Let's take a moment to examine what Paul writes in (Eph 3:8-12) – **GOD'S PLAN...**

**A. Was Formerly \_\_\_\_\_** – (Eph 3:8-9) *"To me (Paul), who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;"-*

**B. Was to Reveal His Infinite \_\_\_\_\_** – (Eph 3:10) *"...to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be MADE KNOWN by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,"*

**C. Was with \_\_\_\_\_** – (Eph 3:11-12) *"...according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. As believer's, we are part of God's purpose as a Church, to build His Church – (1 Cor 3:9) *"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field; **you are God's building.**"**

**Closing Point:** The Church is not just an earthly organization, but a divine \_\_\_\_\_ which reveals **His purposes for all creation**. We must understand that God has an **infinite master plan** of which He desires to use us as we **walk in faith**. (Matthew 16:18) *"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."* (Do you have the faith to participate in this master plan?)

**II. TRUSTING THE BUILDER** – As I mentioned in my introduction, mankind loves to do things in the flesh, or 'his own way.' At Calvary Chapel, we realize that **we can never build God's Church**. And when we do build it in the flesh, we build it wrong, stumbling people in the process! Our approach then is to **BE AVAILABLE**, but also Trust God to build it His way!

A. HIS \_\_\_\_\_ – It's His Church, therefore it is His responsibility. *But problems arise...*

1. **No People** – When I was an overseer of a Children's ministry, the ministry began to grow as more and more children began to attend. However, a problem grew out of this, because there were not enough helpers to minister to the children. So, what did I do? Stress out, wig out, or pass out...**NO!** The Lord told me that it was His Church, and therefore it was His responsibility to bring the helpers. All He wanted me to do was to be \_\_\_\_\_ for them, and **TRUST that He would provide!**

2. **No Time** – When I oversaw the men's Saturday Morning Bible Study at my former Church, I still carried a full-time job, of which I often had to do mandatory overtime. Many times, this cut short my preparation time for study, and I found myself frazzled the night before. Through all of this, God showed me that **it was His Men's Bible Group**, and that He was responsible for it! **He told me that if I would just be faithful to RELY UPON \_\_\_\_\_ then He would do the work;** and He did time after time.

B. HIS \_\_\_\_\_ – In **(Zechariah 4:6)** we read, *"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts.*

1. **By His \_\_\_\_\_ – *Trusting the Builder*** to do the work by His Spirit removes all of the pressure from us to produce the materials or even success!

a. He \_\_\_\_\_ need our wisdom or might to build it – **(Jer 9:23-24)** *"Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; 24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,' says the Lord. (Carnal methods are worthless to the Church; He just wants us to delight in Him)*

b. He does not need \_\_\_\_\_ – **(Isaiah 55:8-9)** *"For **My thoughts** are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. – Okay then, if God does not use our ideas, thoughts, riches or wisdom, then **WHAT does He want us to do within the Church?***

2. **By Faithful People who Trust in Him.** – This is where the **"Relaxed Casual Style"** comes in. When a man or woman faithfully trusts in God to build His Church, you will see the church \_\_\_\_\_ the way that He designed it to. – Once again, **(Eph 4:15-16)** tells us that when we do this, **the church**, *"...grow(s) up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ - <sup>16</sup> 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."*

**Closing Point:** We must remember that God is a \_\_\_\_\_ Builder. – In **(John 1:3)**, the apostle John reveals that, “\_\_\_\_\_ *were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*” This tells us that He can do anything with or without us. Therefore, at Calvary Chapel, *trusting Him to do His work within the Church* is what we have learned to rely upon.

**III. STRIVING WITH THE BUILDER** – (Psalm 127:1) *“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”*

A popular quote from Chuck: <sup>1</sup>*“If we strive to gain, then we have to strive to \_\_\_\_\_.”*

**A. HIS GREATEST PREVENTION** – \_\_\_\_\_! Once again, the **methods of man!**

1. **What’s Being Communicated?** – When man decides within the Church to use **“Cookie Sales,”** and **“Car Washes,”** and **“Bingo nights”** to raise the funds for a church, then the Church has a serious problem. What is actually communicated when we have to take **“another offering”** for a ministry?

2. **What are We Trying to Accomplish?** – Bigger Congregations, Beautified Buildings, and Book Stores? If this is that case, then we have failed as a Church. **A.W. Tozer** said, *“It is now common practice in most evangelical churches to offer the people, especially the young people a maximum of entertainment and a minimum of serious instruction. It is scarcely possible in most places to get anyone to attend a meeting where the only attraction is God. One can only conclude that God’s professed children are bored with Him, for they must be wooed to meetings with a stick of striped candy in the form of religious movies, games, and refreshments.”*

- **Reaching Souls is the Goal, and it requires God’s Power!**

3. **Where Does It All Lead?** - If our methods at Calvary Chapel have come to rely upon ourselves, and not God, then it is just a matter of time before we too will **BURNOUT.** On the individual level, it becomes \_\_\_\_\_ something that I pray you won’t have to experience.

- **We have a saying within Calvary Chapel,** *“Where God guides, God provides!”* – In other words, ***if God is not leading then we should not be moving.*** – If a ministry dies as a result of Gods plan, then by all means ***do not give it mouth to mouth!*** – We desire to be <sup>2</sup> ***“Minus the Hype.”***

**B. HIS \_\_\_\_\_** – The \_\_\_\_\_ is to be the ***foundation*** and ***blueprint*** for Building the Church God’s Way!

<sup>1</sup> Chuck Smith – Calvary Distinctives, pg. 40, 3rd para.

<sup>2</sup> Chuck Smith – Calvary Distinctives, pg. 42, last para.

1. **The Word of God Will \_\_\_\_\_ His Church – (Isaiah 55:11)** *“So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”*
  
2. The Word of God is \_\_\_\_\_ – **(2 Tim 3:16-17)** *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*
  
3. **The Word of God is to be \_\_\_\_\_** – In **(Ps 138:2b)** we are told the God’s Word is so blessed that He even, *“... magnifies (His) Word above His name.”*
  
4. **The Word of God is literally inexhaustible** – **(Isaiah 46:9-11)** *Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure.’ 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man who executes My counsel, from a far country. Indeed, I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do*

**Closing Thought:** Though the ministry of building the church can seem difficult at times, when we cease striving with God and \_\_\_\_\_ His Word to be our foundation, we will be blessed as we watch the effectiveness of His Church... Knowing the Builder, Trusting in the Builder, and not Striving with the Builder *is the key to seeing the Church built God’s way!*