

“God’s Building – Part 1”

Summary

Are we truly building with God or merely spectating? This powerful message challenges us to recognize that God is actively building His kingdom, and we're called to be co-laborers in this divine construction. The central theme revolves around Zechariah 4, where we see God's people rebuilding the temple. This isn't just ancient history - it's a picture for our role today in building God's spiritual house. We're reminded that Jesus declared, 'I will build my church,' and we're invited to participate in this ongoing work. The message draws fascinating parallels between physical construction and spiritual growth, urging us to consider: Are we building wisely, using quality materials that will stand the test of time? Or are we cutting corners, potentially harming ourselves and others in the process? This calls us to examine our motivations, actions, and the legacy we're creating in God's kingdom. As we reflect on this, let's ask ourselves: How can we align our lives more closely with God's blueprints, ensuring we're building something of eternal value?

Main Points – God’s Building – Part 1

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores that God a builder, emphasizing that He is actively constructing His church and kingdom. Pastor Rob highlights that believers are called to be co-laborers with God in this building process, focusing on building people rather than just physical structures. The message stresses the importance of understanding God's blueprint and building according to His design, warning against self-centered building efforts that don't align with God's purposes.

Key Points:

- God is a builder and is actively building His church and kingdom
- Believers are called to be co-laborers with God in His building project
- The focus should be on building people (the church) rather than just physical structures
- We must build according to God's blueprint and design
- There are recurring themes in God's work throughout history, but we should be operating at a higher level of understanding in our generation
- The importance of being fully dependent on the Holy Spirit in our building efforts
- Warning against tearing down what God is building through divisive speech or actions

Scripture Reference:

- Zechariah 4:1-14

- Matthew 16:18
- 1 Corinthians 3:9-10
- Ephesians 4:12, 16
- Proverbs 14:1

Stories:

- The story of a builder who cut corners on a house project, only to find out it was meant to be a gift for him, illustrating that what we build, we will live in
- The analogy of the church as a "throne on wheels," emphasizing its mobile and advancing nature

Small Group Study Guide – God’s Building – Part 1

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. God is a builder and is actively building His church and kingdom.
2. We are called to be co-laborers with God in His building project.
3. The true building is people, not just physical structures.
4. We must be careful to build according to God's blueprint, not our own plans.
5. What we build, we will live in - our work has eternal consequences.

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor mentioned that God works in cyclic patterns, but ascending. Can you think of an example in your own life where you've revisited a lesson or theme, but at a higher level?
2. How does understanding that God is building His church change your perspective on your role in the body of Christ?
3. The sermon emphasized that we are building people, not just physical structures. How can we practically "build up" other believers in our daily lives?
4. Discuss the statement: "Be careful how you're building upon this foundation." What does this mean for us as individuals and as a church?
5. How does the story of the builder who cut corners resonate with you? In what areas of your life might you be tempted to "cut corners" spiritually?
6. Pastor Rob mentioned the importance of building "a place for His name." How can we ensure that we're building for God's glory rather than our own?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, intentionally seek to "build up" at least one person in your life through encouragement, prayer, or acts of service.
2. Reflect on your current involvement in the church. Are you actively participating in God's building project? If not, what step can you take to become more engaged?
3. Examine your motivations in serving God. Are there areas where you might be building for your own name rather than His? Commit to realigning your heart with God's purposes.

4. Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal how He wants you to participate in His building project, both in the church and in your daily life.
5. Choose a spiritual discipline (e.g., Bible study, prayer, fasting) to focus on this week to ensure you're building your spiritual life on a solid foundation.

Closing Prayer

Scripture for Meditation:

"For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building." - 1 Corinthians 3:9

Discussion Questions – God's Building – Part 1

How does understanding God as a builder change our perspective on His work in our lives and in the world?

In what ways can we actively participate in God's building process, both individually and as a church community?

How might the concept of 'progressive duplication' in God's work challenge or enhance our understanding of biblical prophecy and its fulfillment?

What does it mean to be 'fully lit' as a Christian, and how can we cultivate this in our spiritual lives?

How can we balance being aware of the spiritual realm while remaining grounded in our earthly responsibilities?

In what ways might we unintentionally 'tear down' the church instead of building it up, and how can we guard against this?

How does the story of the builder and foreman relate to our own spiritual lives and the work we do for God?

What are some practical ways we can ensure we're building on the foundation of Jesus Christ rather than our own ideas or agendas?

How might understanding ourselves as 'triune beings' (spirit, soul, and body) impact our approach to worship and spiritual growth?

In what ways can we cultivate a greater dependence on the Holy Spirit in our daily lives and church activities?

Scriptures – God’s Building – Part 1

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon:

1. Zechariah 4:1-14 (extensively quoted and discussed)
2. Proverbs 4:18
3. Luke 4 (allusion to Jesus reading from Isaiah in the synagogue)
4. Isaiah 61 (referenced as what Jesus read)
5. Revelation 2-3 (allusion to "he who has ears to hear")
6. John 4 (reference to Jesus at the well)
7. Daniel 10 (allusion to spiritual warfare and the Prince of Persia)
8. Matthew 16:18
9. 1 Corinthians 3:9-11
10. Malachi 4:1-2 (allusion to the day burning like an oven)
11. Acts 15:14 (allusion to God taking a people for His name)
12. Ephesians 4:11-12
13. Ephesians 4:16
14. 1 Corinthians 10:11 (alluded to, not directly quoted)
15. Proverbs 14:1
16. Ephesians 5:22-32 (referenced for church as bride metaphor)
17. Hebrews 11:10
18. Hebrews 3:4

General themes with suggested relevant verses:

1. God as a builder:
 - Psalm 127:1
 - 1 Peter 2:5
2. Believers as co-laborers with God:
 - 1 Corinthians 3:9
 - 2 Corinthians 6:1
3. God finishing what He started:
 - Philippians 1:6
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:24

Devotional – God's Building – Part 1

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based:

Day 1: God the Master Builder

Reading: Hebrews 11:8-10, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11

Devotional: Just as Abraham looked forward to the city designed and built by God, we too are part of God's grand construction project. Today, reflect on how God is building His church - not just a physical structure, but a living, breathing community of believers. Consider your role in this divine blueprint. Are you allowing God to shape you according to His design? How can you contribute to building up others in faith and love? Remember, we are God's fellow workers, and He has entrusted us with the precious task of building on the foundation of Jesus Christ. Take time to pray for wisdom and discernment in how you can align your life with God's masterplan for His church.

Day 2: Not by Might, but by Spirit

Reading: Zechariah 4:1-7, Ephesians 2:19-22

Devotional: The vision of the golden lampstand reminds us that God's work is accomplished not by human strength or power, but by His Spirit. In a world that often glorifies self-reliance and personal achievement, take a moment to surrender your efforts to God. Reflect on areas in your life where you might be striving in your own strength rather than relying on the Holy Spirit. How can you cultivate a greater dependence on God's power in your daily walk? Remember, you are being built together with other believers into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Pray for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit, asking Him to illuminate your path and empower you for the work He has called you to do.

Day 3: Building with Care

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, Colossians 3:23-24

Devotional: The apostle Paul warns us to be careful how we build on the foundation of Christ. Our work will be tested by fire, revealing its true quality. Today, examine your motivations and the "materials" you're using to build your life and ministry. Are you building with the gold, silver, and precious stones of faith, love, and obedience? Or are you using the wood, hay, and straw of self-promotion and worldly wisdom? Remember the story of the builder who cut corners, only to discover he was building his own house. Whatever we do, we should do it as unto the Lord, knowing that our true reward comes from Him. Ask God to purify your intentions and to help you build with integrity and excellence for His glory.

Day 4: The Church as God's Building Project

Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Peter 2:4-5

Devotional: God's building project is not a solo endeavor - it involves the entire body of Christ working together. Each believer has a unique role to play, equipped by the Holy Spirit for the work of ministry. Reflect on your spiritual gifts and how you're using them to build up the body of Christ. Are you actively participating in the growth and maturity of your local church? Consider how you can encourage and support others in their spiritual journey. As living stones, we are being built into a spiritual house for God's dwelling. Pray for unity in the church and for a deeper understanding of how your life fits into God's greater purpose for His people.

Day 5: Building for Eternity

Reading: Matthew 7:24-27, 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

Devotional: Jesus teaches us about the importance of building our lives on the solid foundation of His words. In a world of shifting sands and temporary structures, we are called to build for eternity. Reflect on the foundations of your life - what are you building upon? Are your priorities, decisions, and actions aligned with God's eternal perspective? Remember that while our earthly bodies are temporary, we have the promise of an eternal dwelling with God. How does this eternal perspective change the way you approach your daily life and challenges? Pray for the wisdom to invest in things that will last beyond this life, building a legacy of faith that will stand firm in the storms of life and shine brightly for God's glory.