

Encounter Church
Sunday November 02, 2025

Together We Build
Close the Door to the Enemy (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION: We've been in this series titled "Together We Build." Personally, when it comes to building something like a house, I'm not a builder. I'm more like a helper.

Now I could disguise myself as a builder. I could buy all the right tools, even buy the material, dress like a builder.

But when I started building, you would quickly realize, hey this guy doesn't know how to build a house.

In the Book of Corinthians in the Bible Paul talks about this spiritual house that each of us is building.

1 Corinthians 3:9-15 (MSG)- "...Or, to put it another way, you are God's house. Using the gift God gave me as a good architect, I designed blueprints; Apollos is putting up the walls. Let each carpenter who comes on the job take care to build on the foundation! Remember, there is only one foundation, the one already laid: Jesus Christ. Take particular care in picking out your building materials. Eventually there is going to be an inspection. If you use cheap or inferior materials, you'll be found out. The inspection will be thorough and rigorous. You won't get by with a thing. If your work passes inspection, fine; if it doesn't, your part of the building will be torn out and started over. But you won't be torn out; you'll survive—but just barely."

Satan wants each of us to build our spiritual house, our life, our family, our church, with cheap, inferior materials.

WHY? Because he wants to destroy and not build!

Remember we talked about the "wiles" of the devil last week.

Wiles- methodeia- Where we get our word "method." Satan is methodical. Satan has a strategy to stop the church. A strategy to ruin your life. A strategy to destroy your family.

SATAN ALSO HAS A BLUEPRINT FOR YOUR LIFE!

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NKJV)- "lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices."

Now if you're building a house and using cheap material, wouldn't you want someone to tell you?

SO DON'T BE IGNORANT OF THE DEVICES OF THE ENEMY. CLOSE THE DOOR TO THE ENEMY! JUST LIKE NEHEMIAH DID.

Last week we talked about how we can open the door to the influence of the enemy and build with cheap material.

Three things. 1. Uncontrolled Anger. 2. Pride. 3. Strife

4. Unforgiveness

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (NLT)- "When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit, so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes."

So, Paul connects forgiveness with closing the door to Satan and his schemes!

TWO MAJOR THINGS ABOUT UNFORGIVENESS

a. **We don't feel forgiven by God.** There's always a guilt factor involved.

Romans 8:1- "So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus."

b. **Not forgiving others the way you want God to forgive you.**

When you live in the world of these two points you're always looking back at your mistakes or the mistakes of others.

Philippians 3:13,14- "Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

There's a reason your windshield is bigger than the rear-view mirror in your vehicle.

GOD SAYS, "**LOOK FORWARD!**"

Can you imagine building something in front of you while continually looking back!

The rest of your life is before you! You're moving forward!

Ephesians 4:30-32 (NLT)- “And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”

Close the door to uncontrolled anger! Close the door to pride! Close the door to strife! Close the door to unforgiveness! These are cheap building materials.

THE LAST ONE

5. Fear

I believe fear is the door the enemy most often wants to open in our lives.

We have to realize that the enemy comes against the work of God with fear!

Nehemiah 4:11-14 (NLT)- “Meanwhile, our enemies were saying, “Before they know what’s happening, we will swoop down on them and kill them and end their work.”

The Jews who lived near the enemy came and told us again and again, “They will come from all directions and attack us!” So, I placed armed guards behind the lowest parts of the wall in the exposed areas. I stationed the people to stand guard by families, armed with swords, spears, and bows. Then as I looked over the situation, I called together the nobles and the rest of the people and said to them, “Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes!”

DON’T BE AFRAID OF THE ENEMY!

OUR ENEMY WANTS TO INFLUENCE US AND OPEN THE DOOR TO FEAR!

Romans 8:15-17 (MSG)- “This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It’s adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike “What’s next, Papa?” God’s Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what’s coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we’re certainly going to go through the good times with him!”

2 Timothy 1:6-7 (TPT)- “I’m writing to encourage you to fan into a flame and rekindle the fire of the spiritual gift God imparted to you when I laid my hands upon you. For God will never give you the spirit of fear, but the Holy Spirit who gives you mighty power, love, and self-control.”

HOW DO I CLOSE THE DOOR AND OVERCOME FEAR!

REMEMBER:

a. We have the power of God!

We have the power of God poured into our lives through the Holy Spirit! We are no longer victims! God has given us a spirit of power!

b. We have the love of God!

We have the perfect love of God poured into our lives through the Holy Spirit!

Romans 5:5 (NLT)- “And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.”

c. We have the Mind of Christ

With the mind of Christ, we can apply the ways of God to the lives we are building!

Romans 12:2 (NLT)- “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

CONCLUSION: Make it personal.

I have the power of God! I have the love of God! I have the mind of Christ, a sound mind!

We’re closing the door of the influence of the enemy. HE CAN’T BUILD WITH US!

We’ve closed the door to uncontrolled anger, pride and strife.

Today we’re closing the door to unforgiveness and fear!

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?