

A Time to Build!

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Recap last week's message by Bro Kenneth Ray on Restoration.

People must have a will or desire to be restored. We can't impose our will on someone else to see them restored.

It is not within our power to restore other people. We can share the Gospel with someone, but unless God has dealt with them, and melted their heart, they won't receive it.

It is (or was) Jesus who first pulls someone out of darkness, and only Jesus can do it again. God is the only One who can draw people to Him.

We are ambassadors for Jesus, It doesn't say that you should be trying to reconcile people to the church; you should be trying to reconcile people to God. If they don't have a personal relationship with God, then they won't be kept.

Restoration is not growth. Giving back to God what was already God's is not the same as adding new names to the list. God wants to use us to build the next big chapter.

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3

1: To every thing there is a season, **and a time** to every purpose under the heaven:

3: A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, **and a time to build up**;

A Time to Build!

- 1. What are we building?**
- 2. Where do we begin?**
- 3. Staying focused!**

1. What are we building?

1 Corinthians 3:9-11

9: For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are **God's building**. 10: According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11: For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

We are building God's building...which is people. And if you're going to build God's building you can only build on the foundation which is laid, which is Christ Jesus.

Psalms 127:1

1: Except the LORD **build the house**, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Just like in last weeks message where God is the only one who can restore, God is the only one who can build.

Ephesians 2:19-22

19: Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20: And are **built** upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief **corner stone**; 21: In whom all the **building** fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22: In whom ye also are **builded** together for an **habitation of God through the Spirit**.

In this ministry we were built on the foundation of the Pastor Davis who built on the chief corner stone of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastor Davis went to the streets and brought in those of most would have forgotten about, he was a wise materbuilder.

He brought in people of the religious world had forgotten about, the out casts, down trodden of society....people like me, sinners like me.

We are in the ministry of building and restoring people, giving God a place to dwell.

2. Where do we begin?

Matthew 7:24-27

24: Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a **rock**: 25: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a **rock**. 26: And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

A rock is something you can build on that will withstand the storms.

Sand is something that won't stand the trials and fall hard.

Remember the story of the 3 little pigs and the big bad wolf?

Matthew 16: 13-18

13: When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14: And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15: He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16: And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17: And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: **for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee**, but my Father which is in heaven. 18: And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, **and upon this rock I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

*The rock was not Peter; the rock was the knowledge of who Jesus was. We are to build on the knowledge of who Jesus is, the knowledge can only come from God, and he chooses who He is going to **reveal** it to.*

Luke 24: 44-47

44: And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

Verse 44 is that knowledge concerning Jesus.

45: Then opened he their **understanding**, that they might understand the scriptures,

Verse 45 is the understanding of why and how we build on that knowledge of Jesus.

46: And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47: And that **repentance** and **remission of sins** should be preached in **His name** among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

We begin with building on 3 areas: **Repentance**, **Remission of sins** and **His name**... and truly understanding that name being the rock, knowing who He is.

Acts 2: 36-38, 41

36: Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

This was that rock Jesus was telling Peter about...***upon this rock I will build my church.***

37: Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38: Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of **Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Remember the 3 things I mentioned earlier Repentance, Remission of sins and His Name.

41: Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls

We begin to build with the understanding God gives us. You can have all the knowledge and be able to quote verse after verse, but if you don't have the understanding you cannot build.

3. Staying focused!

Luke 14:26-30

26: If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27: And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. 28: For which of you, intending to **build** a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? 29: Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, 30: Saying, This man began to **build**, and was not able to finish.

We have to be in it to win it right from the get go. We have to be willing to stay focused and build no matter what comes our way.

And let me tell you things will come our way. Because there is an enemy to who wants to discourage us, distract us... even try to tear down what's been built.

Nehemiah 2:18-20

18: Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

Here we see them encouraging each other in what they are about to build.

19: But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?

And no sooner than they had decided to do this thing the enemy comes to try to discourage them, even laughed at them.

What is this thing you're going to do? Become the largest Jesus name ministry in the world? It will never happen! What do you mean have enough people to build a church building, or have the elders send us a pastor again?

I believe we can have those things again, but not if God doesn't build it, and if we don't keep the right foundation.

20: Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

We just need to remind our enemies that God will use us to build, and build it even greater than before! And our enemies, those who though we have failed and have come to naught will have no place in what God is doing and have no right to be a part of it!

Nehemiah 6: 1-3, 15&16

1: Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;) 2: That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief. 3: And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?

And now here we have the enemy comes in distract us, they couldn't discourage us, so let try distracting them!

It says the plains of OH NO! For a reason, the enemy wants to get distracted just enough so that you wont build. Let just come down and discuss it for a little while, let me tell you church once the enemy has you on his territory and your not where your supposed to be, you have already quit building.

But we need to answer like the leader did here, I'm too busy doing God's work to come down.

15: So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days. 16: And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.

When our enemies see and here about what God has done, then they will truly know that this work was of God, and God is with us!

Hebrews 10: 37-39

37: For yet a little while, **and he that shall come will come**, and will not tarry. 38: Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39: But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the **saving of the soul**.

Remember in the movie, “Field of Dreams” when the voice kept telling him, “build and he will come.” The same is with God, build His church and He will come!

James 5: 7&8

7: Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. 8: Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Jeremiah 31:28

28: And it shall come to pass, **that like as I have watched over them**, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; **so will I watch over them**, to **build**, and to **plant**, saith the LORD.