

Building as a Wise Master Builder

“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. 28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” (Matthew 7:24-29 KJV)

This Scripture was the conclusion of the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ that He gave to the crowd in a famous sermon on the mountain, *“1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,” (Matthew 5:1-2 KJV)* Jesus in His teachings, He guides us in the way that we ought to live in order to have a peaceful life according to what God had planned and had bestowed for us. Jesus described that as the following:

1. There are two types of people: *First*, the wise builders; those who come to Jesus and listen to what He speaks to them, and they put into practice what they hear. *Second*, the foolish builders; those who hears what Jesus is saying to them but they do not put it into practice. The Lord said in His Word, *“8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.” (Psalm 32:8 KJV)* * For God to teach you is to give you the full plan of your life that He has already made for you, the plan to prosper you with an assured future. For God to instruct you is to tell you the fine details to certain steps of your life. * You may have the full plan of God in your life, but you need certain details how to do certain tasks and to pass certain occasions. The Lord will counsel you; you can ask Him and He will answer you. The Lord is watching over you. * The wise builder is the one who allows Jesus to teach Him. To be teachable is to accept correction, guidance and instruction from God so that the life you live will be fruitful, graceful and successful.

2. There are two kinds of foundation: A rock is a strong foundation and a sand is a weak foundation. As we know, for any house or building it has to be built on a foundation so it will stand. The bigger the building is the wider, the deeper and the more rigid foundation it has to have so that it can hold the heavy weight as well as it can stand the natural threat like rains, floods, storms , earthquakes, etc.

The Lord Jesus was speaking to every one of us. When we build our own houses we should build on a strong foundation, as well as we should build our own lives on a real foundation so it would not be affected by the threats and the pressures of this world. We must be wise builders. The foundation that we should choose to live on must be the Word of God and the principles written in the Bible. Jesus is telling us clearly that we will face in life difficulties, trials and hardships of different kinds like rain, earthquake, torrents and floods. If our building is without a strong foundation, or our lifestyle is not based on the Word of God we will collapse or be destroyed.

Jesus is the living Word of God. He is God. He came down from Heaven to show us the right way of living. His Word is the perfect foundation that we ought to build our life on. Jesus came from Heaven to save us from death. He lived on earth without sin yet He took our sins, died for us on the cross and rose from the dead to give us eternal life.

Jesus spoke to the crowd about lot of things but what was the value if the crowd heard what He said but did not do or put into practice? So Jesus said, *“46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46 KJV)* You must go through the Bible, read the Word of God and see how much of what you read you are doing and how much is not yet applied or put into practice. The worse is that if you are not reading the Bible and you don't know what Jesus has been telling us, then how could you have a good foundation to build your life? Consider carefully His Word. Jesus Christ is coming back as soon as He said: *“12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” (Revelation 22:12 KJV)* If you are only building on the sand or your lifestyle is based just on your own logics, principles and philosophies, you must wake up; all these will be thrown away. The only things that will remain are those that built according to the Word of God and the teachings of our Lord Jesus that written in the Bible.

3 The expert builder: *“10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, 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. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. 16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” (1 Corinthians 3:10-17 KJV)*

“According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.” (1 Corinthians 3:10 KJV) Apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians made clear statement and declaration to them that by the grace and the strength that God gave to him, he had built as a wise master builder the foundation that God and His Christ wanted him to lay for others to build on.

Speaking about building the church, the church is not a building, but the church is people who are called by God and who give their lives to live for God. Their lives needed to be built on the foundation of Christ and on His Word. With the rest of the apostles, Paul laid a foundation for God's church according to the instruction of Jesus and His Word, and the Word of God that others, including us today need to follow and apply in our lives. God had given us His grace to build up on the foundation that He had prepared for us.

“But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.” (1 Corinthians 3:10 KJV) Every one of us needs to be careful on how to build on the very foundation that had laid down for us.

We need to be aware that there is no other foundation than the foundation of Christ that was laid on, ***“11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 3:11 KJV)*** There is auditing and there is a time of judgment that will reveal each and everyone work and service.

“But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.” (1 Corinthians 3:10 KJV) The personal responsibility and accountability is there. Everyone should be responsible on what he is doing in his life and how he is serving God. God will judge us according to what we had received from teaching and from instructions.

“12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble.” (1 Corinthians 3:12 KJV) Here it declares to us the Word of God, the kind of building that the people living their lives and the kind of service that they are serving the Lord. There will be those who are serious in their lives and service toward God. They are cautious about God they are honest and faithful to Him, giving Him the best of all what they have in their lives. They love God and they obey His commands, and they are described here by the apostle as those using gold, silver and precious stones. These are enduring and costly materials that will stand the pressure of life, the trials of devil, and what God would allow to pass from hardships and struggles.

While the other kind of people, are those who are opportunistic, who will use wrong and corrupted things to live their lives and to serve God. They don't love God and they don't love others. They are using God for their own benefits, and they are described here by the apostle as those using wood, hay, stubble. ***“12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble.” (1 Corinthians 3:12 KJV)*** These are non enduring and cheap materials that will not stand the pressure of life and the trials of devil, or what God would allow to pass from hardships, struggles and judgment. **** If you have built your life by using cheap principles of lies, greed, favoritism, favor from men, you are like a building made only of wood, hay or straw and with a shallow foundation. * Cheap materials will support the building temporarily and for simple purpose but useless for a long-term and bigger purpose. God allows fire to consume a building – that means trials and hardships to burn and remove away the cheap principles in your life. * God wants you to get rid of lies, flattery talks, biases, favoritism, greed, or injustices. God would cleanse you from all the cheap things because He wants your life to build on a strong and perfect foundation that will last forever. * You must be expert builder, and you need to build your lifestyle on the foundation that is already laid; God's living Word, and Jesus Christ who is coming soon to reward everyone according to what he has done.***

What kind of life people living and their commitment to God will be revealed sooner or later; God will make it manifest and in a clear way. That is His work and we need to trust Him for that. That is His church and He will not allow wrong things to continue for long period of time. Sooner or later He will reveal everything. He will reveal the good and He will reveal the bad thing.

“13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.” (1 Corinthians 3:13 KJV) The day will come, the circumstances will come, or the season will

come that the work of each and every one will be revealed, and God will use fire to reveal it of what kind of materials was made.

The original animal leather will not be burnt by fire, but the artificial and faked one will be burned with fire and that is how it can be differentiated. In the same way, God will use fire, will allow trials, will allow troubles and will allow devil to work against us to reveal what kind of people we are, ***“and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.” (1 Corinthians 3:13 KJV)*** The fire will cause burn, will bring pain will cause destruction to everything that is not built up on the foundation of Christ. That is why every now and then, the Lord shall allow trials and hardships and work of devil, natural calamities, disasters, plagues, war and other alike to pass into our lives to judge our lives and to judge the kind of building that we are living and building our lives on, to try every man's work of what sort it is. God will allow us to have our freedom and to do what we like to do, and for a period of time that may extend to years, 5, 10, 15 or 20 years, then He will come and judge what we had done with fire. The outcome of the fire that God will allow to come on each and every one life it will be as the following:

“14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.” (1 Corinthians 3:14 KJV) If the man stood the trial and the test and his work and what he built remained, then that is the approval for his good work, and that will be a certificate for him to receive the reward from God.

“15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” (1 Corinthians 3:15 KJV) **** If the trials caused that work of the man to be destroyed, then this is the certificate of that man's work and that is God's destruction who is revealing the corrupted nature of that person, and so he will suffer loss. * The value of the fire is not only to judge the corrupted work but to save the people. The time of fire is the time for testing and the time of salvation for the people who are living in sin and away from God. * The destruction that fire will bring on the peoples' lives will make them awake and aware of the destructive part of their sin and what ruin can bring to their lives. The same fire that will burn all the corrupted work and destroy all what sin did, the same fire will push the individual to move away, or rather run away from sin and the life of sin, and come to God and receive Him as Lord over his life and start to live and apply God's Word in his life. Yes all what he did in sin will be burned and destroyed, but he himself will be saved, “but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” (1 Corinthians 3:15 KJV)***

After this introduction and this instruction from God's Word, let us ponder this Word of God from Apostle Paul, ***“16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? 17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17 KJV)*** The church is not a building, but we are the church, we are the temple of God and the Holy Spirit of God living in us. Therefore we need to heed what kind of life we need to live for God. If we live for God and live on the teaching of His Word, the Holy Spirit will reside and dwell in us. But if we live in sin and in corruption, we are not destroying only God's church but we are also destroying ourselves, and the trial or the fire or the work of devil that God will allow to pass on us, will work it out to destroy our sinful nature based on what His Word declare, ***“17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy,***

which temple ye are.” (1 Corinthians 3:17 KJV) so that we can be saved, “15 If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” (1 Corinthians 3:15 KJV)

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said to Peter, the following: **“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.” (Matthew 16:18 KJV) * What we can understand from that, that Jesus would build His church on Peter, on the disciples, His followers, and we are among them if we decide to continue to love Him, to continue to follow Him and abide in His Word and in His will and ways. * God will allow trials, fire, even devil and demons to test our lives and our service to Him, but if we continue to abide, nothing can prevail against us as a church.** We need to grasp that and adopt it in our lives and ministry so we can continue to lead a victorious life with the Lord. Apostle Peter delighted in the Lord and in His Word, in His will and in His ways and he wrote to us to continue in the same of what he followed and live for:

“1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:1-5 KJV)

*** Let us now consider ourselves as living stones that God would use to build up His church. * Let us put aside all the followings: “all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings.” All these will make our lives corrupted and non fruitful and we will not be able to stand when the fire of God will come, and we will not be able to stand when trials and when the work of devil will be allowed to approach us. * Let us go back to the Word of God, and let it be the spiritual milk, a sincere milk, without cheating, that we need in our lives to make us grow in a normal way and to be mature.**

My dear and beloved: How long do you listen to the Word of the Lord Jesus but do not do what He says? Can you make this day a special day for yourself? Can you commit yourself in the hand of the Lord to do what He says to you? As you tested that the Lord is good and faithful in fulfilling His promises, **“3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” (1 Peter 2:3 KJV)** then come sincerely to Him and live on His Word as spiritual milk for your growth, to be truly the spiritual stones that God would use to build up His church. Jesus is the corner stone for His church, although He was rejected and persecuted but He is the corner stone of God’s temple, **“4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious.” (1 Peter 2:4 KJV)** **As you repent from your sins and your wrong way of life, and your mistakes, and as you are willing to go into the narrow gate and suffer for Him, then you truly would become the lively stones and will be included in His church building, to be used for His service and ministry: “5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:5 KJV)** You will be the authenticated royal priests of God to minister before Him, and to bring others into His presence. In this way you will continue in doing the ministry that the apostles started to do.

Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your encouraging Word to me, and thank you for reminding me to take heed of your written Word in the Bible and to your Word that you spoke and what you are going to speak to me with the Holy Spirit. Lord thank you for the teaching and the various Scriptures that you had used to sanctify me. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.

Come now to God and repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your carelessness and your lack of commitment. Confess and renounce your lies, cheating, being opportunistic, your flatteries, compromises, corruption and injustice. Confess and renounce your worldliness, and your love for money and material things. Confess and renounce your lust, immoralities, your envy and jealousy, malice, hypocrisy, your anger and fights and the rest of the work of the flesh in your life. Confess and renounce doing your own will and neither the will nor the plan of God. Confess your yoke with non believers and your yoke with Media, News and games. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____. Lord I renounce them all. I renounce all the corrupted things of this world, the guile, and hypocrisies, the envies, and all evil speaking, including the lies and the malice.

Lord I commit my life, my service and ministry unto you. Lord I commit myself to drink from the sincere milk of your Word so that I will grow as a living stone, to be used and incorporated in your church. Lord help me and sustain me during the time of trial and the time of testing. Lord I commit myself to build my life and my ministry on your Word and your will. Lord I trust you that you will neither leave me, nor forsake me, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.

Lord bless our Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed their lives to live for you according to your Word and according to your will in their lives. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the Spiritual gifts they need to go on and serve you. Lord protect them from the evil one, provide their needs and set them as good examples to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue to persevere to preach your Word and to declare your will to the people. Lord we commit ourselves to teach and practice the doctrine in the Bible. Lord we commit ourselves to continue to evangelize and spread your Word. Lord enable us to go and make new disciples and to train new workers to serve you to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord take the message and spread it to reach the people who need your Word. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.’ Lord prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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