

BUILD ON THE ROCK - A MIND TO WORK

FOCUS ON: BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE!!

- You will have to submit to the will of God
- Only through the church of Jesus Christ
- You have to build the correct foundation

- Jesus was a builder

Matthew 16:18 NKJV 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.

- God calls you
- He is greater than your fear
- How we build is just as important as what we build

Proverbs 24:3 AMP Through skillful and godly Wisdom is a house (a life, a home, a family) built, and by understanding it is established on a sound and good foundation,

Matthew 7:24-27 24-25 “These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. 26-27 “But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards.”

- Build on rock or sand?
- Both built – they weren’t lazy
- The question is how they built
- The way you built is how you come through the storm

1 Corinthians 3 :10-14 NKJV 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

- Notice that Jesus said that wise man builds on the rock by first laying a foundation
- Great things are built over a period of time
- You must first lay a solid foundation – on the rock Jesus Christ and then you begin to build
- You build nothing permanent with a wrong attitude, a uncommitted mind or a fearful mind
- You build great things with a purposeful, intentional, deliberate, focussed attitude
- God gives grace to build
- Your sin will delay your focus but will not disqualify you to build
- The enemy reminds you of your sin
- You do not just build a foundation for yourself
- There are people that must still come, who we are building for
- The enemy will look for a gap all the time
- How we build is important
- God is looking for builders of His Kingdom
- Jesus is our light
- Jesus is our purpose

TODAY: A MIND TO WORK!!!

Nehemiah 4 :1-21a NKJV 1 But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. 2 And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish—stones that are burned?" 3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall." 4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised; turn their reproach on their own heads, and give them as plunder to a land of captivity! 5 Do not cover their iniquity, and do not let their sin be blotted out from before You; for they have provoked You to anger before the builders. 6 So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. 7 Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, 8 and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion. 9 Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night. 10 Then Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall." 11 And our adversaries said, "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease." 12 So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, "From whatever place you turn, they will be upon us." 13 Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. 14 And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses." 15 And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work. 16 So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah. 17 Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. 18 Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me. 19 Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, "The work is great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. 20 Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us." 21 So we labored in the work, and half of the men held the spears from daybreak until the stars appeared.

6 So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, **for the people had a mind to work.**

- God is a God that revives
- He will turn your tests into testimonies
- You must have a mind to work

10 Then Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and there is so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall."

- Watch and pray to be protected against the enemy
- Do not be afraid as the Lord is great and awesome
- The rubbish in your life makes that you think that you can't build
- Strip it of your life

13 Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings;

- You must return to the wall
- Position yourself behind the wall
- God has a place and a purpose for everyone to fill a gap
- Every human's purpose should be to be in the presence of God
- You have been created to worship God
- Your purpose is to stay on the wall

17 Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. 18 Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built.

- God multi skills and multi tasks us to build His church and Kingdom...

Nehemiah 6:15-16 NKJV

15 So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.

- The wall was finished, because the people had a mind to work.
- They were committed to build and finish the wall
- Take your focus of your enemy and put your focus on God
- They did whatever was required to finish the wall – they did not quit half way through/

Nehemiah

- Rallied people together
- Started building process
- Intensified prayer when opposition came
- Removed the rubbish that slowed down the process
- Positioned strong men at the openings
- Continued work with vigilant attitude
- Finished the wall

WORK!!

- Nothing can be built if people don't first make up their minds to work
- Nothing happens by itself
- No building is built unless people have a mind to work

Psalm 127 Unless the Lord build the house they labour in vain

- It does not say, if God builds the house they don't have to labour
- Yes God gives the increase but we still have to plant, build and labour
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Everything we build is by grace through faith

- It's like people sit around and wait for things to happen – call it Faith
- I need more inspiration – Pastor
- You need to get off your rusty dusty and work
- You need a little bit of inspiration and a lot of perspiration if you are going to build anything great.
- Easy to dream – hard word to see it realized.

Ecclesiastes 5:3 NKJV For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice is known by his many words.

- Can have greatest plan but until you don't have a mind to work, all you have is a daydream or a nightmare.
- Inspiration – plans
- Perspiration – hard work

- Noah before law – received inspiration to build ark – This inspiration led to 120 years of perspiration
- Joseph – dream of ruler ship – 17 years of perspiration to get there – through pit pot prison
- Peter – had to let down net – fish did not jump into the boat

- Need a mind to work
- A mindset of a builder – to make things happen
- Today people want to dream but do nothing or they become lazy.

Prov. 6:9-11 AMP [9] How long will you sleep, O sluggard? When will you arise out of your sleep? [10] Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to lie down and sleep-- [11] So will your poverty come like a robber or one who travels with slowly but surely approaching steps and your want like an armed man making you helpless.

TALK ABOUT "A MIND TO WORK"

1. Focussed mind

- Loss of focus is the number 1 momentum stealer
- Billionaires attribute 1 thing to prolonged success and that is focus
- Outstanding people have one thing in common, an absolute sense of mission – Zig Ziglar
- Strong lives are motivated by dynamic purpose – Kenneth Hildenrand
- When we lose focus then building stops
- We need to stay focussed on our assignment
- Enemy gives another focus like David

2 Samuel 11:1-3a 1 It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. 2 Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. 3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, "Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

God is looking for people:

- Who refuse to become distracted
- Who refuse to become discouraged
- Who refuse to become divided
- No matter what they feel, or are going through, they remain focussed on their mission which is to build the wall

2. Disciplined mind

1 Corinthians 9:24–27 24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

- We must not be controlled by feeling
- Things that still controls most people
 - I don't feel like going to church
 - I feel tired
 - I fee moody
 - I don't feel in love anymore
- The bible says: as many are led by the Spirit – not feelings
- If you want to be a strong Christian you must have discipline

Luke 14 : 25 - 27, 33 25 Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 33 So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

- Root word for disciple is discipline
- Disciplined follower of Christ
- As for me and my house we will serve the Lord

3. Determined mind

Genesis 11:1-6 1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. 2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. 3 Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. 4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." 5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

- Think what we can accomplish for God united in purpose
- Where there is unity there is always victory – Publilius Syrus
- He whose flanks are united in purpose will be victorious – Zun Tzu
- Even the weak become strong when they are united – J F von Schiller

Psalm 133

Unity, God commands blessing

Matthew 12

House divided will not stand!!

A determined mind is a "I can and I will" attitude

Philippians 4:13

By grace through faith

A mind to work is a determined mind that:

- Finds a way
- Never quits
- Doesn't make excuses
- Keeps on keeping on
- Resilient

When Nehemiah rebuilds the walls:

- Builders built wall with vigilant attitude – one had weapon and the other hand they used to build
- They built with determination
- I am going to finish what I've started even if I have to do it myself for the next 120 years.

Come on CRC – this is our TIME

- Let's rise up as one and build the walls
- Take your place on the wall – close the gaps
- Get your focus back
- Fill you hand and get involved
- Be a builder and build God's house

MEND THE NETS!!!