



## **“BUILDING A STRONG SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION” I PETER 2:5-9**

### **OVERVIEW:**

WHENEVER A STRUCTURE OF ANY MAGNITUDE IS GOING TO BE ERECTED, LAND HAS TO BE PURCHASED, FLOOR PLANS DESIGNED, PERMITS OBTAINED, MATERIALS SELECTED AND PRICED, AND MANPOWER ENLISTED TO COMPLETE THE JOB. THE LAND HAS TO BE CLEARED AND ALL REMNANTS OF ANY REMAINING STRUCTURE AND WASTE MATTER MUST BE TORN DOWN AND REMOVED IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO TRANSITION TO THE NEXT PHASE.

THE SAME STEPS MUST BE TAKEN FOR A SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION TO BE LAID. IT TAKES TIME AND IT MUST BE DONE STRATEGICALLY AND SYSTEMATICALLY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED END. TO BEGIN BUILDING ON YOUR SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION, YOU HAVE TO START CLEARING OUT ALL THE JUNK, ALL THE SIN, AND ALL THE UNRIGHTEOUSNESS IN YOUR LIFE THAT WILL HINDER YOUR ULTIMATE SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

SCRIPTURE TELLS US THAT YOU MUST “LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT AND THE SIN WHICH DOETH SO EASILY BESET YOU, SO YOU CAN RUN WITH PATIENCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE YOU” (**HEBREWS 12:1**). SUCH THINGS AS MALICE (WISH OR INTENT TO DO HARM), GUILF (CUNNING & DECEITFULNESS), HYPOCRISY (ACTING LIKE YOU’RE SOMETHING OR SOMEONE THAT YOU ARE NOT), ENVY (WANTING WHAT SOMEBODY ELSE HAS) AND EVIL SPEAKINGS (LIES AND RUMORS THAT ARE SPOKEN ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE).

(**PSALM 127:1A**) SAYS, “EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE, THEY LABOUR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT:” WHEN YOU BUILD A STRONG SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST, YOU CAN LIVE OUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD RIGHT HERE AND RIGHT NOW! BECAUSE ANYWHERE THE WILL OF GOD IS BEING DONE, IS WHERE THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS PRESENT.



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WE LIVE IN A DAY AND TIME WHERE OUR CONSTANT MOTIVATION IS FOCUSED ON HOW TO BUILD MATERIALISTIC PROSPERITY. WE ARE OBSESSED WITH OUR FAT BANK ACCOUNTS, LUXURY CARS, BIG FANCY HOMES, IMPRESSIVE PORTFOLIOS, STRINGS OF ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS, WALK-IN CLOSETS TO HOLD OUR EXTENSIVE WARDROBES, VAST ASSORTMENTS OF EXOTIC AND EXPENSIVE COLLECTIBLES, AND DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR RARE AND EXQUISITE JEWELS. WHAT ABOUT BUILDING A STRONG SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION? (**MATTHEW 6:19-21**)

IN THIS TEXT, THE GENERAL EXHORTATION TO HOLINESS IS CONTINUED, AND ENFORCED BY SEVERAL REASONS TAKEN FROM THE FOUNDATION ON WHICH CHRISTIANS ARE BUILT, JESUS CHRIST, AND FROM THEIR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS AND PRIVILEGES IN HIM. THE MEANS OF OBTAINING IT, THE WORD OF GOD, IS RECOMMENDED, AND ALL CONTRARY QUALITIES ARE CONDEMNED (V.1-12).

#### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

I PETER 2:5-9

MARK 14:58

PSALMS 127:1A

JOHN 14:16

MATTHEW 6:19-21

I CORINTHIANS 3:9

PSALMS 127:1

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

HEBREWS 11:1 & 6

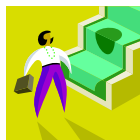
JEREMIAH 29:11

PSALMS 119:11 & 105

EPHESIANS 2:20

ROMANS 10:9

THE FOLLOWING ARE THREE TEACHING POINTS TO STUDY:



—*Teaching point one: “THE PROCESS”*

- A. **LAND** – [FAITH] – (**HEBREWS 11:1 & 6**) DECLARES, “NOW FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN. BUT WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM: FOR HE THAT COMETH TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.”

IN ORDER TO BUILD, YOU NEED A STRONG SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION. THAT SURE FOUNDATION IS JESUS CHRIST. THE DEEPER THE FOUNDATION, THE HIGHER THE ELEVATION! SO IF YOU DESIRE TO GO HIGHER IN YOUR PRAISE, YOU’VE GOT TO GO DEEPER IN YOUR PRAYER LIFE. AND IF YOU DESIRE TO GO HIGHER IN YOUR WORSHIP, YOU’VE GOT TO GO DEEPER IN THE WORD OF GOD! DIG DEEP INTO YOUR FAITH, TRUSTING AND BELIEVING THAT WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE. REMEMBER AS YOU’RE RISING TO THE TOP, YOUR ATTITUDE WILL DETERMINE YOUR ALTITUDE. DON’T GET CAUGHT UP IN “YOU” AND FORGET THAT IT IS NOT “YOU”, BUT THE JESUS IN YOU WHICH IS WORKING THROUGH YOU. **HOW HIGH WILL YOU ALLOW GOD TO ELEVATE YOU?**

- B. **BLUEPRINT** – [GOD’S WORD] – (**PSALMS 119:11 & 105**) SAYS, “THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MINE HEART, THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST THEE. THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH.”

WITHOUT THE WORD OF GOD, THERE ARE NO GUIDELINES, NO DIRECTION, NO BOUNDARIES, AND NO REGULATIONS TO BUILD ON A STRONG SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION. GOD’S BLUEPRINT IS THE TRUE PLAN FOR SUCCESS! GOD’S WILL IS WRAPPED UP IN HIS WORD. AND IN HIS WORD IS THE REMEDY FOR EVERY **SITUATION**, EVERY **SET BACK**, EVERY **SETUP**, EVERY **STUMBLING BLOCK**, AND EVERY **STORM!** GOD’S BLUEPRINT IS PURE AND SIMPLE...TURN RIGHT...GO STRAIGHT!



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C. **PERMIT** – [SALVATION] – (**ROMANS 10:9**) TEACHES US, “THAT IF YOU SHALL CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH THE LORD JESUS, AND SHALL BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU SHALL BE SAVED.”

DO YOU REMEMBER THE MOVIE “THE FAST & THE FURIOUS”? -- WELL, SALVATION IS ALSO FAST AND FREE! IT ONLY TAKES ONE MINUTE TO BE SAVED! SALVATION IS YOUR PAID TICKET TO GOD’S CHOICE BLESSINGS FOR YOUR LIFE. IT IS YOUR KEY TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD! IT IS YOUR GATEWAY TO HEAVEN. YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN.

A PERMIT TO A CONTRACTOR IS WHAT TOWER CLEARANCE IS TO A PILOT. HE CAN’T TAKE OFF WITHOUT IT! THE SAME APPLIES WHEN THE CAPTAIN TURNS OFF THE “BUCKLE YOUR SEATBELT” SIGN, THEN AND ONLY THEN ARE YOU FREE TO MOVE ABOUT THE CABIN. SO IT IS WITH SALVATION. IT ALLOWS YOU TO MOVE ABOUT ON YOUR CHRISTIAN JOURNEY AND EXPERIENCE ALL THAT GOD IS AND ALL THAT GOD HAS DESIGNED FOR YOUR LIFE. **ARE YOU READY TO RECEIVE YOUR PROMISED INHERITANCE?**

**How many segments of the “Process” are there? \_\_\_\_\_**

**What are they?**

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—*Teaching point two: “THE PEOPLE”*

- A. **ARCHITECT** - [GOD] – HE IS THE AWESOME CREATOR OF ALL TIMES. HE WHO ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS IS, AND FOREVER SHALL BE, STEPPED OUT OF HIS PRE-EXISTENCE, TOOK FRAGMENTS AND REMNANTS OF THE FUTURE, AND PRESENTED A UNIVERSE INTO BEING BY SIMPLY SPEAKING WHAT WAS NOT AS THOUGH IT ALREADY IS!

THE LORD GOD FORMED MAN OUT OF THE DUST OF THE GROUND, AND BREATHED INTO HIS NOSTRILS THE BREATH OF LIFE; AND MAN BECAME A LIVING SOUL. HE REALIZED THAT EVERY CREATURE AND FOWL OF THE AIR HAD A MATE EXCEPT MAN. SO HE CAUSED A DEEP SLEEP TO FALL UPON ADAM, TOOK HIS RIB AND CREATED EVE AND BROUGHT HER UNTO HIM. GOD HAD NO PATTERN, NOTHING TO MODEL HIS CREATION AFTER. AND HE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO A TEST RUN. WHEN HE DID WHAT HE DID, LIKE HE DID, AND HOW HE DID, HE SIMPLY SAID IT IS “VERY GOOD!” **WILL YOU AGREE WITH ME THAT THERE IS NO ONE LIKE HIM?**

- B. **CONTRACTOR** – [JESUS CHRIST] – THE SON OF GOD. (**MARK 14:58**), “YOU HEARD HIM SAY, I WILL DESTROY THIS TEMPLE THAT IS MADE WITH HANDS, AND WITHIN THREE DAYS I WILL BUILD ANOTHER MADE WITHOUT HANDS.”

JESUS DEMONSTRATED EXACTLY HOW YOU ARE TO LIVE BY THE EXEMPLARY LIFE THAT HE LIVED. EVERYTHING THAT YOU EVER HOPE TO BE CAN BE MIRRORED BY THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WALK IN HIS FOOTSTEPS. CRUCIFY THE FLESH DAILY AND TAKE ON MORE OF JESUS CHRIST.

**HERE ARE A FEW TIPS:**



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(DIG UP)	<b>HATRED</b>	(DISPLAY)	<b>LOVE</b>
(THROW AWAY)	<b>SADNESS</b>	(PICK UP)	<b>JOY</b>
(BOX UP)	<b>CONFUSION</b>	(LET)	<b>PEACE RESIDE</b>
(SWEEP UP)	<b>IMPATIENCE</b>	(POUR OUT)	<b>LONGSUFFERING</b>
(STOP)	<b>VIOLENCE</b>	(START DEMONSTRATING)	<b>GENTLENESS</b>
(ELIMINATE)	<b>EVIL</b>	(EXEMPLIFY)	<b>GOODNESS</b>
(REMOVE)	<b>FEAR</b>	(REPLACE IT WITH)	<b>FAITH</b>
(DESTROY)	<b>PRIDE</b>	(RESURRECT)	<b>MEEKNESS</b>
(END)	<b>NO SELF-CONTROL</b>	(BEGIN TO SHOW)	<b>TEMPERANCE</b>

**C. FOREMAN – [HOLY SPIRIT] – THE PROMISED COMFORTER**

AS JESUS NEARED THE END OF HIS MINISTRY, HE KNEW THAT HIS DISCIPLES WOULD BE DEVASATED WITH HIS DEPARTURE. SO HE FOREWARNED THEM THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE THEM, BUT THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD COME IN HIS PLACE TO LEAD AND GUIDE THEM. **(JOHN 14:16)** “BUT THE **COMFORTER**, WHICH IS THE HOLY GHOST, WHOM THE FATHER WILL SEND IN MY NAME, HE SHALL TEACH YOU ALL THINGS, AND BRING ALL THINGS TO YOUR REMEMBRANCE, WHATSOEVER I HAVE SAID UNTO YOU.”

WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT, YOU CANNOT BUILD A STRONG SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION. YOU NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GIVE SPIRITUAL GIFTS; TO TRANSFORM YOU; TO GIVE YOU INNER GUIDANCE; TO FILL YOU WITH ANOINTING, TO INSTRUCT YOU IN YOUR PRAYER TIME, TO OPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE BIBLE, AND TO GUARD YOUR MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS; TO GIVE LIFE, TO PURIFY YOU; TO CONVICT YOU; TO EMPOWER YOU; AND TO IMPACT YOUR LIFE WITH POWER!



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**D. LABORERS – (SKILLED & UNSKILLED WORKERS)**

THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF A LOCAL BODY OF BAPTIZED BELIEVERS IN JESUS CHRIST ARE LABORERS FOR AND WITH CHRIST. THE UNSKILLED LABORERS ARE THE NEW CONVERTS, THE BABES IN CHRIST, THE NEWCOMERS! THEY LACK WISDOM AND EXPERIENCE. THE SKILLED LABORERS ARE THE SPIRITUALLY-MATURE CHRISTIANS, THE KNOWLEDGEABLE LEADERS, AND THE SEASONED SAINTS. “FOR YOU ARE **LABOURERS** TOGETHER WITH GOD: YE ARE GOD’S HUSBANDRY, YE ARE GOD’S BUILDING.” **(I CORINTHIANS 3:9)**.

YOUR LABOR BEGINS ON THE OUTSIDE OF THESE FOUR WALLS. FIRST FRIENDSHIP INSTITUTIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH WAS ORGANIZED TO MAKE A POWERFUL AND LASTING IMPACT IN THIS SPECIFIC COMMUNITY. THERE ARE SOULS TO BE SAVED. YOU MUST MOVE OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE AND MOVE OFF OF YOUR “SPECIAL SEAT” IN THIS BUILDING, AND STEP OUT OF THE BOX SO THAT GOD’S WILL, CAN BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN! YOU ARE THE LABORERS. GOD NEEDS YOUR HANDS, YOUR MOUTH, YOUR FEET, AND YOUR EYES TO DO HIS WILL! ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO BE USED?

**How many people does it take to build a solid foundation? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Who are they and what are their titles? \_\_\_\_\_**

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—*Teaching point three: “THE PRODUCT”*

A. **THE METHOD** – (FASTING & PRAYING):

(PHILIPPIANS 4:6) SAYS, “BE CAREFUL FOR NOTHING, BUT IN EVERYTHING BY PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH THANKSGIVING LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN UNTO GOD.” GOD KNOWS YOUR HEART AND THE DESIRE OF YOUR HEART. HE KNOWS WHAT YOU HAVE NEED OF EVEN BEFORE YOU UTTER THE WORDS. HE IS JEHOVAH JIREH, YOUR PROVIDER. HE HAS EVERYTHING THAT YOU NEED TO BUILD A STRONG SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION. ALL HE ASKS IS THAT YOU FOLLOW THE BLUEPRINT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD; LOVE HIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART, MIND, BODY AND SOUL AND LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. IF YOU WANT AN ANSWER FROM THE LORD, YOU MUST EMPTY YOURSELF OF ANYTHING THAT WILL DISTRACT YOU, FOCUS ON HIM AND PLEAD YOUR CASE.

B. **THE MATERIALS** (FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT)

THESE FRUIT ARE THE MATERIALS NEEDED TO BUILD A STRONG SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION. “A TREE IS KNOWN BY THE FRUIT IT BEARS; AND YOU BEING BRANCHES OF THE VINE OUGHT TO BEAR SOME FRUIT.” THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS THE ONLY THING MANDATED IN THE BLUEPRINT TO BUILD A STRONG SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION. ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT HAS TO BE THE WORK OF THE FLESH! I REALIZE THAT ON THIS CHRISTIAN JOURNEY, IT IS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO EXEMPLIFY THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT. BECAUSE THERE ARE PLENTY OF FOLK YOU COME IN CONTACT WITH WHO ARE SO UNLOVING AND UNLOVABLE. BUT AS LONG AS YOU REMEMBER THAT IT’S NOT ABOUT YOU AND YOUR GLOOM, BUT IT’S ABOUT GOD AND HIS GLORY, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO LOVE THOSE WHO DESPITEFULLY USE YOU AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO SAY ALL MANNER OF EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY FOR HIS SAKE.





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**C. THE MASTERPIECE (EXPECTED END)**

YOU CANNOT LIVE ANY KIND OF WAY AND EXPECT GOD TO BLESS YOUR MESS. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU FOLLOW THE BLUEPRINT! GOD HAS A DIVINE PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE. YOU WERE CREATED FOR A PURPOSE AND DESIGNED FOR HIS GLORY.

**(JEREMIAH 29:11)** “FOR I KNOW THE THOUGHTS THAT I THINK TOWARD YOU, SAITH THE LORD, THOUGHTS OF PEACE, AND NOT OF EVIL, TO GIVE YOU AN EXPECTED END.” EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO, DO IT AS UNTO THE LORD. BECAUSE IT’S NOT ABOUT YOU; IT’S ABOUT GOD! WHEN YOU GIVE GOD THE GLORY, THE HONOR, AND ALL THE PRAISE THAT HE IS DUE, AND YOU ACKNOWLEDGE HIM IN ALL YOUR WAYS, I DECLARE THAT HE WILL SURELY DIRECT YOUR PATH. NO ONE SAID THAT THE ROAD WOULD BE EASY. YOU WILL BE FORCED TO DEAL WITH TRAGEDIES, SETBACKS, HEARTACHES, PAIN AND DISAPPOINTMENT, BUT REST ASSURED HE DIDN’T BRING YOU THIS FAR TO LEAVE YOU. THE RACE ISN’T GIVEN TO THE SWIFT NOR TO THE STRONG, BUT TO THE ONE WHO ENDURES UNTIL THE END.

How many pieces of the product are there? \_\_\_\_\_

What are they and how do they work? \_\_\_\_\_

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**CONCLUSION:**

IN GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION, JESUS HIMSELF IS THE CORNERSTONE SEE (**EPHESIANS 2:20**), AND EVERYTHING IS BUILT AROUND HIM. THOUGH HIS ENEMIES REJECTED HIM, HE REMAINS THE PIVOTAL CENTER OF GOD’S SAVING WORK. JESUS WAS SAYING THAT ALTHOUGH HIS ENEMIES WOULD KILL HIM, THEY COULD NOT DEFEAT HIM—AND THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT HAPPENED. JESUS’ ENEMIES SENTENCED HIM TO DEATH ON A CROSS, BUT THREE DAYS LATER HE ROSE TRIUMPHANTLY FROM THE DEAD. HE WAS REJECTED ON OUR BEHALF SO THAT ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIM AS LORD MAY BE ACCEPTED BY GOD AND FORGIVEN OF THEIR SINS.

**Is Jesus your personal cornerstone?**      YES            NO     

**Why or why not?** \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Are all the things you do, the values you hold, and the goals you pursue centered in Him?**

YES            NO     

IF NOT, I CHALLENGE YOU TODAY TO BUILD A STRONG SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION BECAUSE LIFE WITHOUT CHRIST IS NO LIFE AT ALL!



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