

# Building a Spiritual Tower

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One of the greatest human needs; is the need to create. It is a need that is expressed in many different ways, in many different individuals. People outwardly express their creativity in the form of: artists, writers, poets, inventors, musicians, designers and builders, just to name a few. There is a great amount of satisfaction to be gained, in creating something and seeing it through from beginning to end. Our need to create can be completely and totally fulfilled as a member of the body of Christ. In one of His parables, Jesus Christ compared our spiritual growth and development to the construction of a tower. We can all be builders and fulfill the need within us to create, but it is with great care, thought, and of the highest quality that we must construct our spiritual tower.

## A Solid Foundation

What is the one thing that every structure requires before you can begin to build? You require a set of blueprints, or a plan. Buildings are designed and drawn out precisely on a set of plans...every detail is specified, every piece of material listed. God has a plan too, we are not in this life by accident; we did not just come to be. I'm sorry to disappoint those who think otherwise, but our ancestors did not crawl out of a pool of primordial sludge and evolve into the human race. God had a plan in place before He even began to create and before He placed the first man and woman on the earth.

Now, not everyone can pick up a set of blueprints, or plans and understand them. God has given many people the opportunity to see and review His plan but, only a comparative few have been able to understand it and had a desire to respond and undertake the work that is required. Everyone has the potential to understand God's plan, but it is only by going to God and asking for help, that we are able to gain the ability to understand His plan for us and all of mankind.

God gives us a head start; He provides a base for us upon which we can begin to build. It is only by the knowledge and understanding that God alone can give, that we are able to take his plan and build a *spiritual tower* on the solid foundation that He has provided for us. God provides the materials, the understanding and the plans, but He will not force us to build on the foundation He has provided; it is something each of us must commit to undertake on our own, with great care and thoughtfulness. We must have the desire and the will to fulfill our need to create.

When we have received God's plan and have prayerfully gone over it with Him until we understand it, when we have made the commitment to build, the foundation has been poured. Now we are ready to begin building right? Well, not exactly...the cement is still wet; it has not become firm yet. So, what needs to take place for the foundation to become solid? Time...after a period of time the cement will harden into a strong base and that time period is different for each and every person.

We have to show God we are committed to following His plan. We have to repent of our wrongdoing, be baptized and through the laying on of hands receive the Holy Spirit. Then, as we bury the old man and accept Christ's sacrifice, we come back up a new man and receive the Holy Spirit; that process is the catalyst that hardens the foundation. Christ is that sure and firm foundation, on which we can build. Yes, God has provided for us, through His only son, the firm, sure foundation upon which we can build.

### 1 Corinthians 3:11

**<sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

Now we can safely step up out of this world and confidently go up onto that sure and solid foundation and begin to build!

## Building Blocks

Now, how do you construct a tower? Anciently towers were constructed of stone blocks, building blocks. So, we use the knowledge that God gives to us as "building blocks", to construct the tower. Now, you cannot just go out anywhere and find perfectly shaped boulders that you can use to build a wall. They must be carefully shaped, so that they will fit into place. It is this same skill that a jeweler must use when cutting a diamond, if it is not done in a precise and exact manner, the whole stone will be ruined and the value lost.

As we begin to build our tower, we start out with a pile of rough boulders. These rough boulders can be likened to the knowledge we gain, as we begin to understand and are shown about God's way of life. They start off as rough boulders, but as we study, pray, worship every Sabbath, make changes in our lives and our way of living, we begin to shape these rough boulders into blocks. As we continue to learn, grow and make any needed changes and corrections in our lives, the blocks become even more well defined in shape. And once they are shaped into blocks, they are ready for placement into the wall of our tower. Now, just because *we* think a block is properly shaped and is ready for placement into the wall, it does not necessarily mean it is **completely** ready!

God is the final judge. Sometimes He will show us where we are in error, or where there is still a rough edge that must be taken off before the block is ready. Other times, if we are stubborn and forget to ask for help, He will let us forge ahead in our errors. A block we thought was finished and ready to place into the wall we are constructing; may need to be completely reshaped before it is acceptable! A block that is not shaped correctly may not be readily apparent to us at first glance. If we build upon blocks that have irregularities, or that are shaped improperly, it can have an adverse effect on the entire structure. Blocks that are not shaped correctly can cause the rest of the structure to shift and weaken, sometimes to the point of a collapse!

It is extremely important that each shaped block (each new area of knowledge, or understanding gained) be of the proper shape and placed into the correct place in the wall. Each block will be built upon in the future and each one must provide the support necessary for what will be added later. Each block provides support and strength to the other blocks around it. If the support is not there (if the correct knowledge is not in place), the entire wall will be weak, of inferior construction and will not hold up, or bear up as it is added to.

## Spiritual Mortar

As we add blocks to the foundation, the tower wall begins to take shape. As one layer of blocks is laid down, then you begin to build another layer on top of that one. When that one is finished then you begin to put another layer down on top of that one and so on. Anciently, the blocks were shaped in such a fashion that they would interlock and provide strength. But, for the purposes of this analogy we are going to say that we are just using plain blocks, flat on all sides. After you get several layers of blocks laid down, you begin to notice that there are gaps and places where the blocks don't mate up just exactly right. What can possibly be done about that problem?

We can use mortar. Mortar is a cement type of substance used to bond the blocks together and to the foundation. You spread mortar down before you put down your first layer of blocks, then you use it between each block as you set it. Then, you start all over again for the next layer. God's spirit is like spiritual mortar. It binds all of these blocks of knowledge together, in between and top and bottom to fill in all the gaps and to bond everything together firmly in our minds, to the foundation that was laid. It is in this way, that we may see the entirety of God's plan and way of life. You cannot put everything together without God's spirit!

## Job 32:8

<sup>8</sup> But *there is* a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.

## Protection

When properly constructed, your tower will afford you protection. The more layers you add the stronger the walls will become. We all need that protection because Satan's attacks are becoming stronger and stronger every day. Do not allow yourselves to be fooled, God's people are being attacked more frequently and more viciously because Satan knows his time is drawing short. We have to be very careful to construct our towers properly and with quality, otherwise they will be unable to stand up under constant and relentless assault.

If you are not careful, you could end up having some imperfections in your tower wall. You may be able to hide the flaws from everyone else, but you can never hide them from God. He knows our hearts and minds; and what happens when your tower is attacked at a spot that is imperfect and weak? You end up in a pile of rubble wondering what happened, caught all alone, out in the open with no protection.

## 1 Corinthians 3:12-14

<sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward.

We each bear the responsibility of building our individual towers but, that does not mean we cannot share building methods with each other. It is especially important that we help each other now, as we see Satan's attacks becoming more vicious and more frequent. We need to support and encourage each other all the more, as conditions continue to deteriorate and worsen all around us.

## Hebrews 10:24-25

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

## Proverbs 27:17

<sup>17</sup> As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

## A Lifelong Process

This tower that each of us is building is a lifetime achievement; it takes a lifetime of learning and overcoming to complete this tower. The older we get, the harder it becomes to lug those blocks up the steps of the tower to the next level and then lift them into place. But, we must keep going forward. One foot in front of the other, never giving up, never losing site of our goal...to see our tower through to completion. This will be our magnum opus, our masterpiece. Yet, it is not really ours, but God's, for he who has begun a good work in us will complete it. God gives us all the materials we need free of charge to construct our tower.

## Phillipians 1:6

<sup>6</sup> being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

It is not an easy task to construct a tower; it is not something that happens overnight. Christ said that we should count the cost before we started construction on our tower. There will be setbacks, obstacles, disappointments and all manners and sorts of roadblocks that must be overcome during the construction process. We must stay on task, firmly committed to achieving our goal.

## Luke 14:28-30

<sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it* — <sup>29</sup> lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, <sup>30</sup> saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

It is up to each of us to make the most of the materials God gives us. And on that great day when Christ returns and each of us leaves this physical body, or are resurrected if we have left this life beforehand, at that moment the capstone will be placed on our tower.

We have the materials, we have the plans and most importantly of all, we have God's full support and backing. Each of us must be working steadily, every day and in every way, to the best of our ability, to build our tower with the best materials and craftsmanship and to build it to last.

(All scriptural references cited from the New King James Edition of the Holy Bible)

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