



The Word at Work

Growing Up Spiritually: Building the Temple of the Spirit

Reading the Word

Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 3

Key Points:

Many Christians are satisfied with just experiences of the Spirit, but God is interested in building a temple where the Spirit dwells (1 Cor.3:16-17; Eph. 2:21-22).

Experiences of the Spirit are not meant to make us more unstable. They are to build into us something that is built to last; and to build us into his church which is built to last.

The gifts of the Spirit are to build up the church (1 Cor.14:1-5).

As well as pouring out the river of his Spirit, the wind of God's spirit is blowing and he will shake everything to see what is left standing (Heb.12:25-29).

Let's go deeper in the river of God, but let's also dig down deep to make sure that we are building on rock (cp. Luke 5:4 & 6:48).

Some principles to help us build – from 1 Corinthians 3:

1. make sure we are building according to *one purpose* – God's design – and not just doing our own thing (v.8)
2. make sure we are building on solid foundations – Christ and his anointed ministries (vv.10-11)

- a. we need God-given ministries to help us understand fully what Christ is like

3. be careful *how* we build on the foundation (v.10)
4. be careful *what* we build with (v.12)
 - a. are we applying the right principles and building with the right people?
5. recognise that there will be a Day when what we have built will be tested (vv.12-15)
 - a. build for eternal inspection
6. realise and respect what it is that we are building – the temple of the living God where the Holy Spirit dwells (vv.16-17)
7. beware deception and wrong thinking but realise that God gives us all things to help us to grow and be built up (vv.18-23)
 - a. in our thinking let's grow up
 - b. keep the main thing as the main thing – Jesus (v.23)

Doing the Word

To Discuss:

1. Why is it important to make sure that we are building on proper foundations?
2. How does realising what we are building and knowing that it will be inspected help us to build right?
3. What are some of the example of wrong thinking that can hinder our building together?

To Do:

1. Ask someone to help you check whether you are building right in relationship to your life and your part in the church.

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