



The Word at Work

Strengthen Your Stakes

Reading the Word

Key Texts: Isaiah 54:2

Understanding the Word

How do we strengthen our stakes? What does this mean practically?

Strengthen yourself in these areas: Purpose, Principles, People*

1. Purpose: What are we building?

We are not building aimlessly but with purpose. Not according to individual preferences but according to the plan God gives through anointed leaders (apostle, elders). Our roles as individuals are set in the context of the overall purpose.

2. Principles: How are we building?

We are not building in any old way but according to God's principles (see Ex.25:8-9). Earthquake-proof houses must be built to a minimum standard; we are building in such a way that whatever shaking comes the house will stand firm. We will not compromise on these principles.

Methods are many, principles are few: e.g. the mix of musical instruments we use on a Sunday are an example of method – there is an abundance of options but the principle that we 'enter His gates with thanksgiving...' (Ps.100:4) is non-negotiable.

3. People: Who are we building it with?

God is a God of covenant; he makes promises which he sticks to – this makes us secure. We are a covenant people – we are joined together in our purpose. We verbalised this covenant when we became church members; we express it whenever we break bread.

* See Trevor Lloyd's Word at Work for 28.6.09: Strengthen Your Stakes To Lengthen Your Cords

ACTION POINTS

1. Find out what the vision is. Be increasingly clear.
 - In the preaching, listen for the bigger picture. Listen proactively – take notes if it helps. Catch up on any you miss via the website or CD.
 - Always attend church members' meetings and Bible weeks.
 - Spend time with people who have the vision.
 - Live your life in the context of the vision.
2. Get increasingly clear on the principles.
 - Read your Bible (or listen to it on audio), meditate on and memorise it.
 - Listen to and learn from sermons; go to teaching sessions.
 - Read and re-read any teaching notes and recommended books.
3. Get increasingly committed to the principles.
 - Actively apply the principles. Do it!
 - Be radical, e.g. deal with sin ruthlessly – don't tolerate old attitudes (see Luke 3:8-11; Matthew 18:8-9).
4. Be convinced about who you belong with – including the leaders.
 - Don't give up too easily. Any worthwhile relationship sometimes requires hard work.
5. Be committed to those you belong with – including the leaders.
 - Proactively build relationships with other members
 - Serve and pray for one another.
 - Appreciate and believe the best of one another.