



“...Build
the
House...”

The Lord, these past few years, has placed upon my heart a very specific message for my life. I believe he has called me to share this message with others whenever the opportunity arises. It began a little over two years ago when I found myself in a time of transition within my life. The Lord had called me out of a ministry that I was a part of for many, many years. I had no clue or idea of what was to be next in my life concerning ministry or anything else for that matter. It was just a very short time later, as I was seeking the Lord that He reminded me of something He spoke to me

over 25 years ago. It was a scripture found in Haggai 1:7, 8 - *"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD."*

Since then, my life has totally changed. My way of thinking has changed. God has taken me on a journey of renewed passion for intimate relationship with Him. He has renewed a passion within me for the true truth of His Word. God had once again encountered me through this scripture and totally gave me a purpose and a "message" to share with anyone that He would "open the door" for me to share it with. If you would like to know more about that encounter, please, refer to the book entitled "Consider Your Ways... Build my House," where I go into detail of what the Lord had showed me through those scriptures.

Recently, I was asked to speak/teach at a Service for a local ministry. As I was laboring and praying and asking the Lord what He wanted me to share with those that would be there, He gently reminded me - AGAIN - of the message He had called me to speak forth in these days. As previously mentioned, it was the message found in Haggai 1:7, 8 - "build," or more accurately, "rebuild my house," - the "house," meaning any believer in Christ who has made Jesus their personal Lord and Savior. The "message" is to get back to the basic fundamentals of what it means to be a Christian as it concerns to being a son/daughter of the most High God as well as who we are as the Bride of Christ. This "message" also is to include and teach on what it truly means to be a disciple of Jesus; what the Lordship of Jesus actually means to each of us, personally, as well as to share what the scriptures tell us concerning what "true worship" really is and should be, simply through the access the believer has to the Throne Room of God by the Blood of Jesus and nothing else.

It seems that today's Christianity has strayed from these basic fundamentals and we have been encouraged to "graduate" into a "higher level" of our understanding of what Christianity is really all about. There is nothing wrong with growing in the things of God. Unfortunately, the tendency within the Body of Christ these days is that as we grow, we leave behind the fundamentals and rudiments of why and what we believe. We graduate into the "ten steps to get into His presence" or "five steps to..." you name it. We are consumed with the "prophetic" but unfortunately we are really more consumed with the "prophets." We look to them, or we look to our pastors and leaders, to delve into the things of God and tell us about them instead of seeking and searching the scriptures for ourselves and asking the Holy Spirit to teach us.

In building our own "spiritual house," of course the first thing that needs to be accomplished, as suggested in Haggai 1:7 and 8, is that our own ruined "house" needs to be "rebuilt." The first step of any rebuilding process is to make sure the foundation is good and that it is laid upon the bedrock. Luke 6:46-49 tells us, *"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like. He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and*

doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great."

The term "Rock" is an Old Testament term that is really referring to Yahweh, God the Father (see Psalm 62:7; 92:15; 2Samuel 22:3; Psalm 18;2). The term "Foundation," on the other hand, is a term that always refers to Jesus, the Messiah, as seen in Isaiah 28:6, 1Corinthians 3:11 and Ephesians 2:20. Jesus is also referred to as the "cornerstone" (Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 28:16, Ephesians 2:20, 1Peter 2:6). The cornerstone is the "foundation" stone that is cut out from the "rock" to be the "model" from which all the other stones are made to look like and follow after. Jesus is the "foundation" upon which the believer in Christ is now able to build their "spiritual house." The scripture tells us that for a good house to stand strong, it must be built upon a "foundation" that is laid upon bedrock or "rock." What does this mean for us? It means that Jesus' ministry was based totally upon the "Rock" of God the Father, whose ways and precepts He embodied and lived out as He walked this earth because He was God. He was in the Father and the Father was in Him. Every other stone (any true disciple of Christ) is "cut and hewed" to look exactly like the "model stone," the "cornerstone."

In Luke 6, we read that building a good house begins with "digging down deep" through all the dirt and sand so that the foundation for the house is sure to be upon the bedrock. This refers to a heart that truly "digs down deep" within and is truly repentant. It is a heart that truly recognizes how bad a state they really are in and that they need God. It was this kind of heart that Jesus was referring to in His Sermon on the Mount when He began His teaching on what a disciple of His truly is. It begins with being "... *poor in Spirit*..." Matthew 5:3. It refers to a person who recognizes their need for God in their life (Matthew 5:3) and chooses to turn from their wickedness and "mourn" over their sinful ways (Matthew 5:4). When that happens then "... *theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven*" (Matthew 5:3) and "... *they shall be comforted (forgiven)*" - Matthew 5:4. A heart of truly recognizing its need to be saved through the love and forgiveness of God is a heart that is "digging deep" within themselves and allows the "foundation" (Jesus) for their new "spiritual house," to be laid upon all the principles, precepts and blessings of the "Rock of our Salvation," God the Father (Psalm 95:1).

As we can see, this new "spiritual house" has been rebuilt out of the ruins of the old, sinful house. It is now built upon the "bedrock" (the Father) and the "foundation" (Jesus). The "wood" mentioned in Haggai 1:8 is now the "materials" that the Holy Spirit brings within the believer's life to continue to rebuild his or her "spiritual house," a "spiritual house" where God can now rest and dwell within.

As this "spiritual house" that God is now resting and dwelling within, we are to not just be believers but we are to be His "disciples." The definition of the term "disciple" is as follows: *it means to be a student; a follower; a pupil; but most importantly it is **one who chooses to change their lifestyle to the one that they are choosing to be a follower, student or pupil of.*** As a disciple of Jesus there must be a **lifestyle change**. Now that does not mean that we must be perfect. We understand that this lifestyle change is a process (sanctification). However, the attitude of our heart should be such that this is the utmost desire of the disciple's heart - to live a lifestyle of love, integrity, and moral excellence (to name just a few) that mirrors that of the character and lifestyle of Jesus.

To truly be able to live that "lifestyle," brings us to the next fundamental truth that has somehow eluded the Body of Christ - Jesus must be your **Lord**. The term "Lord" as it refers to Jesus in the believer's life, is that Jesus must be the "**absolute, supreme and final authority in that person's life,**" period!!! We must remember that both these terms, "disciple" and "lord," are generic in themselves. In relation to being a Christian it means that if you are a "disciple of Jesus" then you are choosing to **change your lifestyle**, your character and personality to the one you are choosing to follow - Jesus. This in turn, expresses that you are allowing Jesus to not only be your Savior, but that He is your "Lord" - **the absolute, supreme and final**

authority in your life. In other words, you cannot be a disciple of Jesus unless Jesus is your Lord. Likewise, if Jesus is not the absolute, supreme and final authority in your life, then you cannot be a true disciple of His.

This means we must live our lives according to the precepts, principles and commandments of God that are found throughout His Word - Old and New Testaments. We must remember that Jesus never came to do away with the Law. He never came to do away with God's precepts, principles and commandments concerning living the life that we were created and intended to live - a life of integrity, love and moral excellence. What Jesus put an end to was the Levitical sacrifices that were necessary in approaching God and forgiving sin. Jesus fulfilled all those sacrificial laws by becoming the "Final Sacrifice" through all that He did on the Cross, in His death, burial and Resurrection.

Unfortunately, the Body of Christ has "matured" and "graduated to another level" where we now teach and preach that what Jesus did was to throw out everything of the Old Testament, including God's precepts, principles and commandments concerning living a holy, consecrated life. It is okay to live in sin; it is okay to live in fornication; it is okay to live in adultery; it is okay to steal when necessary, etc., because, "Hey God loves you just the way you are and no matter what you do." That is a total perversion of the truth concerning God's love, grace and mercy. Could you imagine Peter preaching that? Could you imagine Paul preaching that? These mighty, holy, true disciples of Jesus preaching that it is okay with God to live the same lifestyle as the world because, "Hey, God loves you anyway no matter what you do so go ahead and live that way." I DON'T THINK SO!!! But yet that is how we "interpret" the scriptures these days because we are "more enlightened and have a deeper understanding of God than they did."

If we refer back to Luke 6 again and go to verse 47 we read, "*Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like...*" This verse precedes the verses of "digging deep" and "laying the foundation" upon the "rock" as we previously discussed. Jesus was telling those listening, as well as us today, that it is vital that the "spiritual house" God is desiring to find rest and dwell within, is one whose lifestyle is doing the teachings and precepts that Jesus not only taught, but role modeled and lived out, throughout His life.

The opposite of this is found in Luke 6:46 and 49, "*(46)And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?... (49)But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.*" (See also Matthew 7:21-23)

In Isaiah 66:1 we read, "*Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?* God Himself asks the question, who can build a "house" where He can rest? The answer is - no one. The house that God desires to dwell and rest in is one that is not built by human hands. It is "built" by Him. It is you and I, His creation. He desires to rest and dwell, not just among men, but **within** men!!! It is to be a "spiritual house" that is built upon a "Foundation" that is laid upon the "Rock" of our salvation. The house where God will rest is to have an "attitude of the heart" that desires to be "one with Jesus and the Father." It is a heart of a true disciple of Jesus that is continually changing their lifestyle to that of the One who is their Lord and Savior - Jesus.

As we conclude our discussion, I would like to refer back to the scripture that God keeps reminding me of over and over again, Haggai 1: 7, 8 - "*Thus saith the LORD of hosts; **Consider your ways.** Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and **I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.**" I encourage all of us to hear the heart of the Lord and to "*consider your ways.*" God is seeking a place to dwell and rest within. God is exhorting His people in this hour, myself included, to "*...build the house...*"*