



**Consider Your Ways...
Build My House!!!**

**An exhortation - both personally and for
the Body of Christ today**

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INTRODUCTION

“What am I - chopped liver?” Not exactly what you were expecting for the opening to a discussion about what I believe is an important Word from the Lord for this hour - is it? Let me begin by saying that a short while ago, I was seeking the Lord for direction. Recently, my ministry life had been turned “upside down.” The ministry that I have been involved with for over 34 years was no longer the ministry that I was involved in.

The Lord had directed me to withdraw from that ministry and move on into the next phase of my ministry walk - whatever that would be, I had no clue. All I did know is that I had a peace and an assurance that it was the correct move for me to do at this juncture of my life. It was and still is a tremendous step of faith for myself and my wife, Trish. It has totally taken me out of my “comfort zone” and has landed me straight into “no man’s land.”

As I was saying, I was seeking the Lord in my quiet time asking Him what He wanted me to do. I was seeking direction. I was seeking His guidance. As I was meditating on Him and some scriptures, He reminded me of something that happened to me way back when, in my ministry life.

The story actually begins about 25 years ago. I was sitting in a Sunday Night Service at the Body of Christ that I was a Worship Leader and Assistant Pastor for practically all of my ministry life. We had a guest speaker that evening. He was, and still is, a wonderful man of God who gave forth a powerful message. At the conclusion of his message he began to speak from the pulpit area, a “prophetic word” over many of those who were present. He spoke a word over the senior pastor and his wife. He spoke a word over the other individual leaders and over other members of the congregation. They were all encouraging words. It was very good.

He began finishing up and everything was going along fine. As this was going on, I was sitting towards the back of the sanctuary by the sound board taking it all in. This is where I am going to be totally honest with you. I am not much for wanting “words” to be spoken over me, etc. It is all well and good, however, I really do not seek after that - whether that is good or bad - that is for you to decide. However, on this evening, there I was sitting in my seat, taking everything in. I was listening to all the wonderful words of encouragement, exhortation and comfort being spoken to what seemed like everyone - but me.

As I had mentioned, the speaker was going into his conclusion and wrapping things up. That is when it happened!! All of a sudden, I have to admit - my flesh kicked in. That is when I said to myself and I guess half heartedly to the Lord - “What am I, God - chopped liver?” “Am I that much out of the loop that in a place where your presence is and you are moving in such a way, here am I, left out - again?” Pretty sad, isn’t it. Now, I know that this never, ever would have come across anyone else’s mind who may be reading this who may have been in and experienced a similar situation. I will not get into that.

That is what was going on inside my mind. It was at that point that the speaker interrupted his conclusion and said, “Oh, and Ray...” At that moment, when I heard that, I didn’t know if I should get up and run out of the building or find someplace to hide. Could it be that God was going to reprove me for my horrible thoughts right then and there? Instead, I just sank down in my seat. The speaker continued. “Oh, and Ray, the Lord is telling you to go up to the mountain and get the wood, as it says in Haggai.” That was all he said and he continued to close the service.

Well, needless to say, after I breathed a sigh of relief, I went home that night and opened up my Bible and read Haggai 1:8, *“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 read it a few times and asked the Lord to show me and direct me in what this means for me. And that was that.

Fast forward now 25 years to a few weeks back, sitting in my den, seeking the Lord. As I had mentioned, the Lord reminded me of that very night, so long ago. It was so clear to me as if it had happened that very same day, as you can tell by my description above. I am only able to recount that event so clearly to you now because that is how the Lord brought it back to my remembrance.

So there I was remembering this event. That is when I asked that question that you should not ask unless you are really ready for God to answer you and hit you right between the eyes - spiritually speaking, of course. I asked, “Okay God, what does this have to do with me? What does this have to do with my asking you for direction now, at this time, for my life?”

What He said to me very simply was that, “You never completed the last thing I told you to do.” “Why are you asking me to do something else when you have not completed the task that I have assigned you to do?” As you can imagine - I had to take a “Selah” moment and pause and think on that! I was speechless. I was in the middle between, on one hand, wanting to repent and on the other hand, asking with a little spiritual pride, “What are you talking about? When did I ever not do or when did I ever not complete what you asked me to do?” I thought it was a valid question. After all, “I **never** do anything wrong and I **always** do what God tells me to do. It’s not me God. You have me confused with someone else.” Come on. Let’s be honest. We all have a tendency to think this way. I know I’m not alone in this.

