

BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE – Part Four

Crossing Your Jordan



Water: a life sustaining force, impossible to live without, yet able to destroy in a heartbeat. Since January we have gone over the foundational principles that God takes His people through in order to sustain societies and progress in life. We have somewhat covered the foundation. I say somewhat, because the limited space that we have here simply cannot exhaust God's foundation. I always encourage you to study on your own and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you personally as to what you will need as a foundation for your own life in Christ. God has a purpose for everything He does. We may not always understand the

progression, but eventually His purpose for teaching you what He has will become evident. Also, don't be surprised if God Himself, after He has laid a foundation in your early Christian walk, doesn't have you learn a few new things about foundational principles later on.

This month, and for however many more months that it takes, we will be looking at the principles of inner healing and deliverance. I liken these principles to building a house and ignoring the external environment that the house is built in. If I lived in the snow-bound northern half of the United States and decided to build a house there as if I was building it in the deserts of Arizona, my house would certainly leak. So the internal structure of a house must meet certain criteria for its external environment. Specialized tools and material are needed to meet various different situations. But no matter where you build a house, you will always need to address water. When we come to Christ we come with certain hard wired materials in our souls, some traumatic, some healing, some informational, some pure. Acceptance of the Christ allows the Holy Spirit to awaken our spirit man, which in turn gives our souls a good 'washing'--- by the Word, the Blood and the Spirit. As time progresses, the word of God transforms our minds to begin thinking with the mind of Christ. But none of us live in glass houses. Life goes on around us. It becomes so easy for us to react to society and our own personal environments based on our own material; or worse, we filter the new material of Christ with our old habits of

internal thinking. This can produce people that never change. Quite a few of the problems in personal relationships have to do with the participants refusing to move into a new phase of a relationship. This is quite common in churches. When one pastor leaves or a church builds a new building in a new location, everyone wants to take people and practices from the old into the new. God had a word for this in the Old Testament. It was Shaatnez. It described a principle of mixing. You couldn't mix certain foods or material or people as you wished, but only as God saw fit. We try to blend old with new according to our understanding of what we want and need. God blends old and new according to His design and purposes.

To ignore the principles of healing, both physical and inner healing as well as deliverance is like building a house in South America and moving it to the North Pole and saying it needs no further attention. For example, when a couple meets and goes through an engagement period, their relationship is based on the two of them and their love. As time progresses and they marry, they have children. Now their relationship is transforming. Not only is it based on their love for one another, but now it must be based on their love and provision for the next generation. If either party cannot realize that the old phase of their relationship is gone, or has evolved, and that it must now grow and change, in effect becoming something totally different, the marriage will begin to disintegrate. So it is for children, for parents, for siblings, for churches, for organizations, companies,

countries and our planet. The inability of grasping God's ways is what caused Abraham to birth Ishmael. This same inability is what stopped the Jews from realizing their Christ. It wasn't that God did not want them to remember or commemorate the glorious experiences of their history with Yahweh, but He wanted them to evolve with that history into His New Covenant with Messiah. This same inability is what has caused Christianity to persecute itself down through the centuries. I firmly believe that it is this inability to accept when God shifts us that causes all the problems that we see.

Over the years my husband and I have been placed by the Lord in many different church and ministry situations. Because God gives us the ability to see when He is making a change and to speak about it, it has caused many church leaders to say things about us that are less than truthful. I've had to learn the hard way not to believe what they say, but believe what God has said. During these stormy spiritual environments, I have learned that not everyone applies the truths of Christ's healing and deliverance to their specific situations. Apostles, prophets, pastors, preachers, teachers, ministers, even those that we see on TV don't always behave like Jesus. I've noticed that very few Christians desire to place themselves in another's shoes to understand what is actually going on around them. Because the Lord has strengthened our spiritual house with inner healing and deliverance, when these stormy waters rained, we were able to stay firm in Christ and allow our

relationship with Jesus to evolve. As it is in the natural, when we stayed the course, we were always able to see new growth after the storm. We've had to leave some environments because people would treat us according to their understanding of who we were, not who God said we were. They refused to evolve, thus creating a toxic environment for us personally. I've never been good around toxicity and so we make the decision to live and go on.

What I am explaining is the transforming power of Christ, His blood, the Word and the Holy Spirit to let us flourish and become His idea of whole and holy people, not ours. This brings us to a place of inner healing and deliverance as well as being able to receive all of God's miracle working power. A review of the Bible and Biblical principles will help explain what I mean. The theological principle of soteriology is the doctrine of the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have an unabridged dictionary that describes soteriology in this fashion: "1. a treatise on health or the science of promoting and preserving health. 2. In theology, the doctrine of salvation through Jesus Christ." I once shared this reality with a group of bible school students. They acted like I was from another planet. When I asked one of them what was wrong, he said they had been taught something different and wanted to know what the basis of my definition was. I said the bible. He asked where. I said the Greek word sozo. Immediately he understood.

Most people do not know that our word soteriology comes from the word sozo. This word means to heal, deliver or to be whole. When we see the progression of this word throughout the Scriptures we begin to realize how much God is in to us being whole people. Our word soteriology comes from the Greek soteria and soterion. Soteria means to save, heal and deliver. Soterion is a defender and it comes from the word soter. Soter means savior. Soter comes directly from the word sozo. Dying on the cross Christ was totally exposed. By His exposure, our deepest areas and needs for emotional as well as physical healing are exposed. By His stripes the Scriptures state that we are healed (Isaiah 53:5). By His death and resurrection we are able to live lives of newness and resurrection. But to see the new, we have to be dead to the old. That's the principle of repentance and forgiveness. We need to walk in those principles daily. That's the reality of taking up our cross and following Christ daily. Once we think we no longer can be mistaken or corrected about something in our lives, that's the point we no longer walk forward. When my sister and my husband get together they sometimes make a little game of laughing at my little 'quirks.' It actually is funny and I get a chance to laugh with them over some of the things I do. By lovingly exposing a few of the things that can drive them crazy, I get the opportunity to see whether I've got the problem, or they have the problem---or both! It really is positive and never degrading in any way, and we all get a good laugh. Of course, as a family we've been known to do this to one another over the

years. It's our own family's way of using laughter and healthy joking to expose some serious, some not so serious and even some positive attributes, flaws or quirks.

I can remember when one of my nephews had fallen into sin. His parents sent him to our home for some 'tough' love. Because some of his strongholds were tied to the world, we clearly laid down the law as to what was and was not allowed in the house. One of the items was secular music. He could listen to Christian tunes but nothing like the rap that he enjoyed. We have an 18th Century music case that contains a radio and stereo. I left the house for a little while one day and returned home to find the case broken. Someone had opened the door too far for this old piece of furniture. Since there were only three of us at that time in the house, and two of us knew not to open the door that wide (me and my husband), that left only one other person that could have caused the damage. Since this was not just a case of breaking something by accident, but actually involved him listening to secular music to short circuit our instructions, we had to address this specifically. We confronted him and he denied any involvement. Well, my husband and I started to laugh. We started to make a joke of imaginary animals coming into the house to open the case, change the radio station to listen to rap music! As our imaginary scenarios became more and more ludicrous and absurd, my nephew started to laugh and he eventually 'fessed up to what he had done. We explained a little more clearly why we didn't want the airwaves of our home

exposed to anything other than health and wholeness, and since most secular rap music and its lyrics did not fall into that category, secular music was not allowed. In order for him to walk in a new life, he had to leave aspects of the old behind him. After about 3 months he was saved, baptized and walking in the power of Christ's healing.

This falls in line with some of the ways the Old as well as the New Testament talks about healing and deliverance. God's pattern in the Bible has been to outright heal someone physically, spiritually or emotionally; to heal them when they ask, or repent or forgive someone else or to use another person, a family member or a minister to effectuate the healing (and this by speaking the word or by the laying on of hands or the use of a balm or other item). How often has a child come to an adult with a scrape or some other minor cut and they have applied some type of healing ointment or disinfectant? We look at this as the most basic form of healing. But Christ took this to a whole new level when He made mud from spit and applied it to a blind man's eyes, and the blind could then see! There is always an argument in Christian circles that once you get saved that there is no longer any need for emotional healing. Some even make a theory that physical healing cannot take place today and that these occurrences died with the apostles of old. And then there are those that say there is no need for deliverance once Christ has become your Lord. There are so many Scriptures that prove these theories incorrect. I just don't have the space to write them all out. If this is

a question for you, then please email me and I will send the Scriptures to you.

Let's just look at the concept of the priesthood. The Bible states clearly that we have been made a royal priesthood and a holy nation (See Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 61:6; 1 Peter 2:5; Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 20:6). We are also the temple of the Holy Spirit. This is in the New Testament. We know that there was an Old Testament priesthood and that after Christ it had to evolve in its relationship. Let's look at the healing elements of the old priesthood and see if they evolved in the New Testament. If they did, then they have not disappeared because God speaks of our evolving temple in the future as well as our priesthood. The priests under the Old Covenant were to discern on matters both legal and judicial and adjudicate the Law accordingly. They bound and loosed, according to the Law. In other words, they looked at the situation of the person presented before them. They knew the Law. They prescribed the methods in the Law for such a particular case and then judged the outcome accordingly. If a person came before a priest with a certain type of a boil and it looked a certain way, that individual was shut up for seven days. If it improved, then a sacrifice was made. If it did not then there were other methods to apply to determine if the situation was unclean for other reasons that the person was not disclosing or did not know about. All of this was done to eliminate contamination of clean and unclean within the Israelite camps and anywhere near the

temple. They bound the unclean and loosed the clean.

The acknowledgement here is that contamination could be continuing. It could happen from generation to generation and could also be contagious, thus spreading from person to person. By introducing the temple and the priesthood into this situation, it dealt with the person on a physical, spiritual and soul-based level---in other words the whole person in an effort to keep the temple, the society and the individual whole and holy. The remedy was usually a sacrifice or segregation. Nowhere in other ancient religious cults of the time do we see all three elements at work, with the understanding that one could affect the health of the other with the addition of segregation as well as various types of sacrifices for cleansing to take place. It's only after the Israelites apply this method do other cultures start to do so---but none of them ever do so as thoroughly pointing to a Soter---a Savior or Messiah figure as representing the reason for this for the health and salvation of continuing generations. Many point to ancient Egypt and China as long lasting societies, indigenous to their own land that are comparable and predate Israel, which both did. Yet Egypt and China each had polygamous and multi-theistic cultures, i.e., many gods and many different partners. Israel is the only culture who is commanded to have only one temple, one priesthood, one book and one God. Their culture is to represent that with one marriage partner (living partner, the death of one released them both) and one society pointed

toward one idea of wholeness and health for one Soter or Messiah. Since we know that Messiah to be Jesus Christ and God does not change, then we as a people had to evolve within the confines of the priesthood and the temple. Do we see that transformation taking place in the New Testament? Yes, we do.

In the Gospel according to Matthew we read about a dialogue between the Jewish leadership of Jesus' day (among them were also priests) and Jesus concerning clean and unclean; namely, not washing their hands before they ate. Jesus says this: "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me....Listen and understand. What goes into a man's mouth does not make him unclean, but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him unclean....whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body....but the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man unclean. For out of the heart comes evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man unclean; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him unclean." (Truncated review of Matthew 15:1-20). So we see Jesus changing the idea of clean and unclean to matters of the heart, or the spirit and the soul, and that these issues can make even the physical body unclean. Later in the chapter Jesus also addresses a woman from another culture that the Law labeled unclean. Her daughter is suffering from demonic possession which had produced a visible

outcome. At first Jesus ignores her. After she bothers the disciples for some time Jesus tells her that He was not sent to her people, only to Israel. After persevering in her faith and belief that Jesus could do something for her situation, even our Lord must commend her faith in Him and grant her request. So now we see unclean situations healed, not according to the Law but according to faith and belief in Jesus Christ. This heathen Canaanite, unclean according to the Law, and a woman to boot is acting as a priest on behalf of her daughter! And God grants her request, not according to her sacrifice alone, but according to faith in who Jesus is (and will become---the sacrifice for the healing and salvation of all mankind).

It doesn't stop there. The whole Gospel according to Matthew deals with the kingdom of heaven, really from Chapter 4 on. Jesus starts to use situations to get them to rethink their idea of who He is and the kingdom of God. He is laying down whole new principles of being set free or loosed and the concept of being bound. In Matthew He specifically talks about binding and loosing and juxtaposes it with a new idea. Up until this time only the priests can do this, but now Jesus states simply that those who ask in His name and call upon His name can do so, because He is there in the midst: "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come

together in my name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 18:18-20) In this specific passage He is talking about forgiveness, bad attitudes (concerning children and family), even money; basically a materialistic and indebted society and the things that keep them bound (among which are offenses, unforgiveness, bitterness, etc.). Earlier in the gospel and later in the Gospel according to Mark it is Jesus, Himself that lets us know that devils bind people and we can also bind spiritual forces here on earth (speaking primarily of demons; see Matthew 12:28-30; 16:19; Mark 3:22-27). These practices of a changed priesthood continued with the early church, long after the initial twelve apostles had gone onto glory---and still continue today among the body of Christ.

Jesus also gives this new priesthood a command. We call it the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18. But frankly it's very similar and continues a theme that God gives Moses when he is coming down with the Law and the guidelines for the Jewish priesthood. We are basically commanded as a royal priesthood and holy nation to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” The last phrase is clear---the end of our time here on earth. In Mark a similar dialogue is recorded but with additional phrases remembered and written: “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does

not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people and they will get well.” (Mark 16:15-18) Moses gave the priesthood to the Jews and Jesus is given all authority (read Matthew 28: 18) to evolve the old into a new priesthood. The apostles then give the early church a concept of being temples of the Holy Spirit. (Even though Jesus is the one who initiates this when He speaks about His body being the temple; see John 2:19-21; Acts 7:48; 17:24; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 2:16; Ephesians 2:2.) Later on in the book of Revelation, when earth is passed and we are with the Lord we join as one and the Lord is the Temple (Revelation 21:22).

Since we clearly see an evolving priesthood and temple that is commanded to heal the sick and cast out demons and occupy the earth as ambassadors of a new kingdom, it's obvious that healing, both internal and physical as well as deliverance are some of the things that we need to understand as we minister. I may disagree with some of the methods employed by a few people, but that healing and deliverance are a part of the Gospel, is undeniable. This month we looked at one of the basic Biblical foundations for inner healing and deliverance as Christians. Next month we will look at appropriate, Biblical methods for inner healing and deliverance. Log on next month for more.....