

## BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE – Part IV When All That's Left is God



**T**his month's title is a little odd, but necessary. We've been talking about essential Biblical knowledge for building up people to be a house fit for habitation by God. Some of our teachings are certainly necessary for laying a foundation for any ministry and its workers, whether it is a small one or a large one. One understanding that is almost DNA-encoded into us from the moment of our salvation in Christ is that there is no thing, no one, and no event that supercedes God. When all around you disappears, if you have not even a place to lay your head, but you have God, you have

everything that you need. When I write about 'having God,' I do not necessarily mean a 'feel-good, everything's-gonna'-be-alright attitude; nor do I mean an outward manifestation of religious integrity (no matter what the religion is). What I mean is an experience the Bible refers to as asking Jesus Christ into your heart. It precedes a deep understanding that you and I have broken His Law and we cannot fix or save ourselves. We then ask Him to be Lord, to be Savior and to invite the Holy Spirit to speak to us and take charge (Romans 10). After such an encounter something happens. 'It' happens differently to different people, but a desire to be closer to Jesus takes place and read His word, the Bible. A desire to be holy takes place, even though you may not know what that looks like. And most of all, the Holy Spirit starts to speak to you as you pray and read and meditate on the Bible. He speaks to you about your attitudes, what you do, where you go or what will take place next. It may not be much more than an impression or a conviction in your heart that something is right or something is wrong, but you obey that conviction. The change might be small or it might start off with a bang in your life, but it does occur and there is a deep awareness over a short period of time that Jesus will never leave you nor forsake you. No matter what things look like around you, He is there. This is what I mean by 'having God.' Again, how close that relationship is depends upon how much you are willing to let go of the sin in your life. The Holy Spirit will always help you let go of it. Your responsibility is to be obedient.

Whether this awareness of Jesus is on an individual level, a local level, a national level or an organizational level such as a church, business or other ministry, it changes conditions around us. God made promises all throughout the Old Testament to this (see 2 Chronicles 7 as an example) and our New Testament history is evidence enough. A quick look at the Romans and their lifestyles before Christianity changed them and a look after its effects are dramatic. But as history passes and the generations are born and die, we as humans have a tendency to water down our testimony and relationship with Christ. We neglect our spiritual calling and fail to experience the awesome supernatural events that are promised to us as the body of Christ by faith. A weakening in the moral fabric and a cheapening of life takes place around us. By God's grace (see last month's feature article), He brings His people back to the basics of salvation and the truth of what it's like to have nothing, no job, no family, no home, no food, nothing but God Almighty---the very essence of life itself---and Him, Jehovah, Jesus, Yahweh, Yeshua --- whatever Biblical name you call Him by, as your only source for life. I'll ask two questions: Why does God do this? And how do we get in the mess we do that causes Our Lord to bring us to a renewed understanding of having nothing left but the Almighty? Let me answer the second question first.

Answering this question will take us on a quick history lesson, both modern and ancient. I realize I may lose some of you along the way and you may become angry

with me, but pray through. A number of years ago I made a young Christian worker angry. He told me so. I told Him it was God-ordained. He was somewhat shocked and said, "So God directed you to make me angry?" I said, "Of course not. I had no idea it (a particular situation that had occurred) would make you that angry, but I do believe the Lord needed to show you this area in your heart and what needs to take place to deal with it." Neither one of us had any idea of the eternal purposes of that situation as the Lord would continue to unfold events surrounding that particular circumstance. While I wouldn't have thought he needed to be angry, the Lord desired to shake him up a bit and reveal events in the future, ultimately protecting him from bitter situations. So if I anger a few of you, hold on to Jesus. What I am about to write has nothing to do with anger or bitterness or my own opinions. I will simply share with you some experiences and thoughts based upon Scripture and Holy Spirit encounters. You can decide for yourselves whether what I write has God-ordained validity to it.

To answer the second question, we get in the mess we do because we unwittingly come in agreement with the devil on some level. Thus precipitating one reason why God has to get us back on His path. Remember that it is mankind who was put in charge of the earth, somewhat as prophetic gatekeepers of God's government for the planet. One desire, among many that our adversary, the devil has is to hurt God (in addition to usurping God's kingdom while attempting to control our particular planet). His best and

first way to do this is by using God's creation, specifically humans, to hurt one another by any and all means possible; from small misunderstandings which can lead to offenses to lies and finally to violence. The reason why these things hurt us is not always based on our souls. While the devil will use our soul because the soul is the seat of the mind, the will and the emotions and the body houses both the soul and the spirit, it is the human spirit, in its regenerated state that houses God, and in fact becomes one with Him when we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Why sin hurts us, as God-fearing people is because it hurts God's Spirit in us. This is why some religions can hurt people with no remorse. They have no realization of God's Holy Spirit within them. But God's people do. It might surprise many Christians to know that criminal behavior, as a whole and violent crime in particular is the lowest among one culturally, religious people---and it is not Christians, but the Jews; at one point in time lower than Hindus or Buddhists. Unfortunately, they are losing some of their protections as they become less God-fearing. I believe we only have to look at their ancient history with God to know why they have attempted to remain so dedicated to their understanding of the Old Testament, which in times past has kept them from committing more violent crimes, as a group. Repeatedly the Lord told them to obey His precepts and they would live. Disobey and they would die. Death would or could occur by war with other nations, disease, droughts or other catastrophic calamities. Many generations from Abraham to Jesus learned

this lesson the hard way. In fact, by the time Jesus came on the scene they were in captivity to the Romans and were trying so hard to walk the straight and narrow with God's word that many actually missed Messiah and refused to believe in Jesus. Enough did believe in Jesus as Messiah that they started what we now call Christianity. Much to the chagrin of some in the media of western civilizations, Christianity is the fastest growing religion in third world nations. It far outnumbers and outgrows Islam or any other group. There is a reason for this and it is simple. Jesus is alive, the Holy Spirit is real and Father God makes a profound difference in the lives of ordinary people. Yet we should never forget the history lesson of the Jewish people.

When the Jews forgot the lesson of Godly obedience and fell into sin, thus coming into agreement with the devil's desires for planet earth, nations were called by God to rebuke them. Yet this almost assuredly was a two-edged sword for those nations so called. They almost always went overboard in their harsh treatment of the Jews and so ensured their own demise. Let's call to remembrance ancient Egypt, Assyria, the Philistines, the Hittites, ancient Greece, and Rome, to name just a few. A strange 'spirit' would come on these nations and their leaders. It was almost as if they were goaded to start a war or duped into certain actions. Israel herself could also fall prey to this thing as was the case with Ahab (see 2 Chronicles 18). The Holy Spirit within us protects us from this deception unless we are surrounded by bad advisors, as was the case with Rehoboam

(see 1 Kings 12:1-24) or our own soul issues of hurt and wounding help us to fall prey to the devil's extremely deceptive spirit. This can sound just like God, as was the case with a good number of prophets written about in the Old Testament (See Ezekiel 14:1-11). Finally, God Himself can turn us over to spiritual forces when He's had enough (Romans 1:18-32). A similar theme is mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5:1-5 when Paul tells the believers that a brother found sleeping with his father's wife should be turned over to satan to be buffeted by the enemy in order that the man would be spared an eternity in hell.

You might be asking what this has to do with God building up His people to be a habitation fit for His dwelling and taking care of them in the process. Well, everything. When we ignore God's warnings, there are times when He will allow the enemy or our own desires to ripen and bear fruit. What we reap is to be a lesson for us that no thing, no person, no circumstance is ever better to have than to have the Lord on our side. And what we do to one another or how we treat one another can have a direct consequence in our own lives. Let me give some modern day examples. Did Hitler cause the Jews pain? Yes. Did Hitler succeed? No. Yet God allowed Hitler to cause the Jews pain for a season in order to bring the Jews back to their homeland. Has America been a friend to Israel? Yes. Has America been successful? Yes. Yet recent events would suggest that the protection that has been afforded to us is beginning to erode. Let me

explain what I mean. America is supposed to be a Christian nation. I realize the liberals and many in the American media would like to see that change. But we are far better protected by God as such than if we abandon Him. Remember what happened to ancient Israel? When they abandoned Him He allowed problems to occur. We have just experienced a two-edged sword situation of our own. I believe that the Lord wants Israel to build a perimeter fence to curb, for a short time and season, the untold violence taking place in the country. This is specifically for the workers of the Gospel to go forward. (See the October and November 2003 "Eye of the Lord in Current Events" link on this site and click on the 2003 archive section.) I also believe that because of the desire of a few toward horrible sin in America that she is near, if not totally in, a time of judgment. The church cannot wash its hands of this. Some organizations have a tendency to develop wonderful pew sitters that pay off church mortgages but do little to raise up evangelists and prophets that can take a tomato in the face or be criticized by their friends. Thank God that there are so many organizations and churches that put their faith into action by ministering to the destitute and wounded, while reproducing faithful servants. Those ministries are a healing balm to this nation. The situation of a carnal church and a spiritual church is not so very different from Israel's own history.

What did the Lord do in the past to deal with this issue and to put everyone back on His path? He moved His hand of protection for a season. When this happens the devil wastes

no time in causing pain. Nations and leaders can be wooed into war. Great loss of life and tragedy can take place. 1 Peter 4:17 states that judgment begins in the house of God first. God might also allow His own people to experience the same events as the unrighteous (Remember the prophets of old; Ezekiel, Daniel and Jeremiah, to name just a few). While that place of protection is removed, those in sin who refuse Christ's offer of freedom feel the full effects of their desires for degradation. Remember that this hurts God and hurts us as well to see it as God's people. But when He says He will not relent and He has made a decision to allow this, it will stand. Can things change? This is the silver lining in so many clouds. We can repent of our wickedness. Once God has judged a situation, even allowing the same situation to test the mettle of those that are walking along His path, then it's time to go forward and do what He wants them to do.

Let me be more specific. After writing all this, what I am about to say is the part that many will get angry over. Nevertheless, I need to write what I believe is correct. Our current president is God's pick for this country for this time and this season. I support him and the good things he has done. I would not want his job and we pray good things for him from our Lord. Yet no one is perfect. I can't remember the year but it was either late 2001 or early 2002 when the Lord had me write a local minister to let his congregation know that because of inner healing issues related to Iraq and the senior President Bush and his son, we would be going to war in Iraq. This was not a desire of

the Lord but He did tell me it was inevitable. He also told me to pray that this war (which had not started yet) would end within three years of it beginning. I felt a great burden for our own people if we did not see an answer to prayer concerning the three-year time limit. Again, I had no idea when the war would start. I only knew that I needed to pray for it to be over within three years. During the mid 1990s I can remember an apostle by the name of John Sandford, who was taken to heaven and he heard the Lord ask the question, "What shall we do with America?" I have heard many meteorologists over the years and as recently as today say that the increase in the ocean temperature that fuels hurricanes took place in 1995 and was like "someone hit a switch and turned the temperature up." I can't even count how many times I have heard this quoted on the news since. Again, I can't remember the year but I think it was around 2000, although it could have been 1999, that I had an experience where the Lord allowed me in a place that I can only describe as a hall of judgment in heaven. I want to be careful in what I am about to share because it was relating to a church that was in America and had a large international outreach. Even though it related to that body, I had heard the Lord talk about judgment for quite sometime. Sometime in 1998 I had a brother in the Lord do me and my husband a favor and help clean our property for a day or two. During that time he related an experience where he was invited by a casino in Mississippi to come inside and have dinner. He prayed about this and the Lord told him to take it as an open

door and to go and ask no questions. While there, the Lord had him pray all throughout the building, basically interceding in the Holy Spirit. Even though he was praying in tongues only, he had the distinct understanding that God was using him to pray for the demise of this gambling situation. He took in no food, nor anything else, he just prayed in tongues in the whole building. He tried to be unobtrusive, disturbing no one, but I guess this freaked out the security people (they have cameras everywhere) and they asked him to leave. He gladly and politely did so, somewhat relieved that his time of intercession there was over. He also had a distinct impression from the Lord that God's will had been accomplished and that his intercession had been received by the Lord.

In July of this year we took a direct hit from Hurricane Dennis. The Lord made me some promises, yet He let me know that judgment was coming to those who refused to walk in the Lord's desires. He also reminded me of another supernatural experience that both me and my husband had at about the same time but in two different locations. I will not go into details except to say that because of this experience I knew that a break or schism could come in our economy and it would be related to gasoline. The Lord has never allowed me to release this or to share this with anybody because He wanted prayer to take place and intercession to proceed so that the severity of this word would not be catastrophic. On this website in the Current Events link I shared in November of 2003 (see the archive) that God was going to

allow the perimeter fence in Israel to be built. It would divide the land and cause much discussion. But let's also remember history. When God allows someone to be used to rebuke His people, it is a two-edged sword. After watching the nightly news and seeing so many in Israel being evacuated and some becoming refugees I wondered what the Lord would do. I didn't need to wonder long. Because we are some 160 miles east of New Orleans I knew we were in trouble as a nation as Hurricane Katrina entered the gulf. We asked the Lord for His grace. Knowing how much of our gasoline refineries are in the gulf, I sensed a place of judgment that gives me no pleasure in sharing. Mississippi, just east of New Orleans, which took the brunt of Hurricane Katrina's devastation, receives more than a good portion of its revenues from gambling. In fact, all of the casinos were extensively damaged and all but a few have been demolished because of Hurricane Katrina. Back toward the west, some forty percent of New Orleans is very poor. I realize that this shocked the world, but it is no surprise to us who live here. Another unknown story is that roughly 30 percent of New Orleans is homosexual or into prostitution of some kind or another. I know this because a Christian acquaintance has a relative who is homosexual who lived in a nice section of New Orleans before and during Katrina. They were able to have conversations with one another right after the levees broke. His area was not flooded and the last I had heard he survived. She had been witnessing to him for years about Christ. She kept an honest dialogue with him and he would share what

really was going on in New Orleans. I believe his assessment of how many in New Orleans engage in homosexual activity has more to do with hidden sin. In other words, people hiding what they do in secret, while maintaining a certain outward behavior. Since New Orleans is legendary for such practices, I am not surprised to hear such a report. Obviously only God knows what goes on in secret. In Pensacola, where both Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis struck within 10 months of one another we have had a battle with the local government for many years concerning an event that takes place every May. It involves homosexuals from all over the country to parade on the beaches. Both hurricanes decimated that portion of the beach as well as many homes, yet they never stopped the 'parade day.' In south Florida there are large homosexual communities mixed in with the rest of the population where hurricanes have multiplied and intensified. After Hurricane Katrina hit the Lord told me plainly that He allowed the hurricane because of our attitude concerning Israel and our blatant acts of sin. And He told me something else that I didn't know yet: they would rebuild the casinos and many that would return to these devastated areas would continue in sin---and that in many places judgment would continue. Because this event is a part of our local news we got to know almost immediately when the levees broke in New Orleans and flooded the city. Thereafter I heard how the Mississippi gaming commissioner was demanding a special legislative session to change the law so the casino boats could come back on line immediately. This took

place on day two while people were still dying and being rescued.

Let me be clear, it's not because God has sent these storms and it's not because He wants death and destruction. He wants to save us from an eternity in hell. Sometimes we forget that a majority of homosexuals, both men and women have been raped and abused as children. Instead of hurting others, many of them internalize this pain and become homosexual. We must share the Gospel message with hope and love. If we will not turn from sin, the Lord will remove His hand of protection for a season---just enough time for us to come to our senses and realize that there is nothing left in the world but God. I also am affirmed by the Lord that His people are not appointed to wrath. Unfortunately, the rain falls on the just and the unjust at the same time (Matthew 5:45). He also allowed me to know that there would be opportunities for the church to go forth as never before to reach out and share the Gospel in real and tangible ways. This would bring a true revival that would spread in small communities and impact the nation in large ways.

Once the Lord made it clear to me that all these events were converging, that of our dealings with Israel, God's judgment, grace and mercy in sparing many and a break in our economy concerning fuel, Tropical Depression No.18 formed in the Atlantic. That evening I had a dream. I have only dreamt twice about sitting United States Presidents. Once in 1993 about Bill Clinton

being in sin and God exposing him (it was somewhere in 1997 or '98 when his sin was exposed nationally). The second time was just recently, right after TD #18 formed around the beginning of September 2005. This dream was concerning the present President Bush. I will not go into details except to say that in this dream he was listening to God intently and possible changes might take place. While he was listening it seemed to me that a hurricane would be stalling (the Lord used quite an odd visual to represent the word 'stalling') possibly nearby but that it would not affect us personally. This tropical depression has developed into Hurricane Rita. As I write this it is expected to hit somewhere near Houston, Texas. Houston is one of the largest oil refinery areas in the gulf. By the time you read this I pray that our prayers, burdens and intercession have been successful before the Lord and that He spares Houston from the worst part of this storm. It was just downgraded from a Category 5 (175 mph) to a Category 4 (145mph).

Again, why would this be so important to share? Because the Lord is constructing a house built without human hands. In that house there can be nothing but God. We have a saying in the English language, "You came into the world with nothing and you'll take nothing with you when you leave it." While that saying is true of material possessions, the reality is that the only thing we can take with us is Jesus, God Almighty. He is the only one that can save us. It would be a shame to become judgmental

concerning people and their particular sin during this time period while ignoring our own. We must continue to share the truth of the Gospel with as much clarity and charity as is humanly possible. I believe those that have placed their faith in Jesus have done an awesome job in reaching out to many of the victims of the past storms. We are not done yet. I also believe that God placed President Bush in the office that he is in and God is not done with undertaking for him or us yet. He certainly is doing the best job that he can in some very difficult situations. What may not be well known around the country or the world is that during disasters it is the local government and only the local and state governments that the law allows as first responders in any disaster. It is their job to have a plan in place. Here in the State of Florida, our governor, President Bush's brother, Jeb has done an awesome job in helping Florida during these storms. I can tell you from firsthand experience what it is like to have the law work on a local as well as on the state level. It is awesome when it works well, difficult when the local government is not equipped and catastrophic when both the local and state governments drop the ball. It is only after the local and state government acts that the Federal government takes over. Usually the Federal government does not respond in a disaster area until 12 to 48 hours after. Our governor has always made it clear that it can take as long as 72 hours for help to arrive and to be prepared. While the Federal government was unusually slow to arrive for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the Lord gave many in the church an opportunity to share the

gospel as never before. I sensed a cleansing taking place as Christians from all over the world made an impact in the areas where Katrina and her victims have been. We have heard and listened to people who would never talk about God make statements concerning their belief that He truly does exist. I can also tell you from firsthand experience that it is the church that is making a mighty impact in these disaster laden areas. For those of you that have prayed for the gulf coast during this time, please be encouraged to know that the Lord is using Christians from all over the nation and the world to help, as well as many who do not know Him, but are struck by the impact that ordinary people can make. This truly is the Spirit of God moving in a positive way on all of humanity.

At this point a few thinking souls might ask what Scripture I could base all these thoughts from. That would be a good question. There actually are a great many, but if I had to choose one, Psalm 107 would be appropriate. Many others of you will say that these occurrences are just normal cycles that the earth goes through. You are entitled to your own opinion. Others will say that they are just coincidences. Up until recently even my husband disagreed with me concerning judgment in America. I say up until recently. After Hurricane Rita formed he began to share his burden for Israel and how the Lord was helping him to realize that there may be something to what I've shared with him over the years. My goal here and I believe the Lord's desire is to help those that might be attending church realize the

liberation as well as the responsibility in knowing that when all is gone, there is still the sure reality of our relationship with Jesus Christ. That relationship will carry us through life and ultimately through death. Even if we were building a literal church structure that would and could house the people of God, even that group must come to a sure understanding that there is nothing in the programs, the offerings or our own opinions but God. No grand structure or building is any good without the Holy Spirit flowing through it. In the days of the early 1800 and 1900's revivals the people would meet in the woods and in arbors. God showed up and carried and sustained them because they had nothing but Him to do so. It truly is no different today. History has shown us that sometimes God will allow circumstances to take place that look bad initially, but in the long run will spare lives.

Changing our dependence on oil and treating our environments with the dignity God created them to have will do much to sustain life. Changing our attitudes concerning sin and how we come in agreement with the devil when we degrade our bodies and one another will help us reap life instead of death on this planet. Changing how we see God and changing our dependence from everyone else to God will release a faith that could spread to the whole nation. On an organizational church level, once God has the attention of those that can make a difference, He will start to speak to us about what we say and pray and how we speak to the earth. In other words, He will redirect our prophetic understanding while purifying

His church. He will make us realize that it is our duty, as mankind to govern the planet righteously as God desires. This month we looked at one of the ways in which God redirects us. Next month we will look at how He then moves us forward in a greater awareness of His insight and our prophetic responsibilities to partner with Him in that goal. Go with God and stay with God, and please continue to pray for us here on the gulf coast. Log on next month for more.....

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