

# **Building Enlightenment**

**Weekend In The Word – Nov. 2022**

I am very thankful to the entire Board for making this weekend available to us, giving us the opportunity to hear God's Word being taught; the opportunity to be face to face with one another. We have the opportunity to renew old friendships and to forge new ones.

The great theme and theme verse for the weekend will set the basis for what we are all about this weekend: having the eyes of our understanding enlightened.

I would like to share with you some things on the topic of "Building Enlightenment". As I was thinking of this and putting some thoughts together, I considered and rejected a title of "Achieving Enlightenment". After all, for the present time we only know in part but when that which is perfect is come, THEN shall we know even as we are known. That is when we really achieve enlightenment. For now, though, there are some things that we can do to build enlightenment into our lives.

It is a great day in the life of any believer when they truly come to appreciate that the True God never possesses people. The True God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is never going to make you do something. When I say that they truly come to appreciate it, I don't just mean that they know the words but that they also understand what those words imply. You see, God has already done what His Word says He has done. God will do what His Word says He will do. But God won't do what He says in His Word what His Word says you are supposed to do. God won't do them for you and He won't make you do them. That is not to say that He won't be with you every step of the

way to help and to aid. So that is where we want to go in our time together here. Let's start with the basic of the basics.

### **John 3: 3 – 6**

Now in verse 3 and again in verse 5, we have the phrase “kingdom of God”. There are a lot of things that could be said about this phrase and there is a lot that has been said about this phrase. Almost all of it is beyond the scope of what we are discussing in God's Word. For our purposes, it is enough to know that the kingdom of God is not a temporal, earthly kingdom. It is not a geographic location here on the earth. This kingdom is spiritual and concerns things in the spiritual realm. And unless you are born-again, you are not going to see or understand anything about this kingdom.

Nicodemus did not get what Jesus was talking about and he asked for further clarification. Jesus answered his request by explaining that you are born of water and born of the spirit. This born of water is not talking about water baptism. When a pregnant woman is ready to deliver the child, there is an amniotic sac around that baby that ruptures and the fluids come out. This is referred to as “breaking the waters”. That is the first birth. But you must also get born of the spirit. Verse 6 goes on to explain that which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the spirit is spirit. And without being born of the spirit, born-again, you cannot see the spiritual realities of the kingdom of God.

Now when we talk about being born-again or born from above, we mean something specific. It is more than just being a church goer or a member of an organization. Now I assume that all of us in here are born-again, but if you want to know more about this, find me anytime during this weekend (or any of the speakers who will be up front here). I am sure each of us would be more than happy to help you.

So, if you are going to have the eyes of your understanding enlightened as is described in Ephesians 1, this is the first thing. You have to get born-again, born from above, born of the spirit or you will simply not have the capacity to see and understand the spiritual realities of the kingdom of God.

### **I Corinthians 2:14**

The natural man here is a man of body and soul only, no spirit. And the natural man simply does not have the capacity to understand or receive the things of the spirit of God. This verse is in total agreement with what Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3. So, this is the first step in building enlightenment in your life. You must be born-again with holy spirit inside.

### **I Corinthians 2:12**

While we are here in I Corinthians 2, look at verse 12 for a minute. We have received the spirit of God that (purpose) we might know the things that are freely given us by God. So, if you want to see the kingdom of God; if you want to begin to understand the all spiritual blessings of Ephesians 1; if you want to know the hope of his calling and the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints and the exceeding greatness of His power to us who believe, you have to be born-again and have that gift of holy spirit. Then you have the capacity to begin to build enlightenment.

### **Psalm 19:7 – 9**

In this passage we see phrases referring to the Word of God. Qualities of the Word are stated and what that means for us. Once you get born-again, then the next thing is to begin to build the Word into your life. This Word of God is pure and will enlighten your eyes.

One caution is to make sure it is the Word of God, not just what somebody says is the Word of God. We have to be able to read it for ourselves. Remember that the devil himself misquoted scripture when he was in the wilderness tempting Jesus. We have resources available to help you in your quest to build God's Word into your life.

### **Psalm 119:130**

As we build this Word of God into our lives, it gives us light. We become more and more enlightened in our understanding. This Word of God gives us light to guide us in our thinking, in our attitudes, in our beliefs.

### **Psalm 119:105**

The Word of God is not only a light for our eyes; it is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path. It shows us how to walk and conduct our lives.

There is a phrase that I know almost all (if not all) of us have heard. The Word of God is our only rule for faith and practice. For faith in that the Word is a light for our eyes, our understanding. It guides us in our thinking and our beliefs. It is a rule for practice in that it is the lamp for our feet. This Word tells us how God would have us to conduct our lives.

### **Psalm 119:97 – 101, 102 – 104**

There are two things in these verses – meditations or thoughts (rule for faith) and keeping (rule for practice). As we do these things – first get born-again and then begin to build God's Word into our lives, we bring our lives into alignment with His Word. We put ourselves in harmony with God's Will.

### **I Timothy 2: 3,4**