2021 11 07 “unless the Lord build the house …”

Psalm 127:1,2. 146:1-10. 147:1-11. Hebrews 9:24-28.

*Kids/Congregation discussion:*

*If you want to be a good runner/ swimmer or whatever, do you just start running?*

*If you developed bad habits, would you just keep doing them? Why not run in the middle of a busy road?*

*Would you look instructions up on utube – and if you became an expert in the understanding of running would that be all – no need to actually run or eat the right food?*

*What of building a happy family life, friends at school – would you praise, gossip, be mean or nice, there are good and bad ways to build something.*

 *If you decide to* ***build a house –*** *what sort of actions are involved?*

Clear the ground, demolish old structures (if not it will affect the new) etc if you do not do preparation/foundations/ tie the roof down, have the sewerage running up hill - what will happen?

The house that God gave us to live in is this body and world. What lovely things do you see in this world – the world that God gave us – a house to live in!

Our life is a house that we build – we can use good material – weak material – good or poor workmanship, hidden flaws? I saw a major building that has concrete rot because salt water got

Gods love for us in Jesus gives us a new start and strength to grow.

What builds our life with Jesus? - Thinking of God’s love for us as individual people.

We live our lives as a friend of Jesus and child of God - when we walk with Jesus, God holding our hand.

“Unless the Lord build the house/ build our lives those who build it, work for no result.”

**So, knowing that God is holding our hand because of Jesus we are never alone – we live in Gods house /Gods company always.**

**Song “build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ – build your house on the rock and not upon the sand …”**

**Hand out of words to decorate according to the words.**

***Craft – sand and plasticene – paddle pop sticks and match sticks and cardboard and scissors for the roof etc – build two houses and latter we will create a rain storm and see what happens.***

**­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­Message**

At bible study on Wednesday morning – I joined by video link – *I encourage everyone who can to come or join on computer.*

 One illustration that Michael gave is the very foundation of our house in God, how do we know we are ‘saved’. The beginning of building our lives in Jesus. **Salvation comes from God**. It is God who so loved you and me that He sent His only Beloved son so that whoever believes in him will not perish.[[1]](#footnote-1)

It is in God the son of man who became sin for us that we might become the **rightness of God in him**[[2]](#footnote-2) - does God lie! - it is God’s initiative that we are drawn into God’s salvation.

The illustration was that it is the parent who holds the child’s hand and keeps the child safe - not the other way around. Salvation is from God and our security is because God is the Father who both ran to meet the rebellious child when he returned and it was the same Father who sort out the sulky son who would not come in.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Is our foundation sand or stone? Listen to the letter to Hebrews: Where is our rock that our lives are built on: “Christ has entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; … he has put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And it is appointed unto us to die once, but after this is the judgement; BUT Christ the Saviour was once offered to bear the sins of many; and to them that look for him shall he appear – at the judgement - the second time without sin (taken into himself on the cross), bringing us salvation.”[[4]](#footnote-4)

It is Gods Spirit, Gods Presence who daws us to forgiveness at the cross of Jesus and who dwells within us.[[5]](#footnote-5) The Spirit or, for me – the Presence of God – teaches, comforts, guides us and brings Jesus to us.[[6]](#footnote-6)

Building a family, a business, an outreach or church programme – it is Jesus, his birth and life choices, always choosing God’s ways. His sacrifice and resurrection where he defeated the power of sin – death. It is this Jesus, who is the solid rock that we and the group of people that we meet with and who the body of Christ on this earth is built upon. Without him it is us doing ‘good deeds. Which is no more than we are expected to do as a human being.

The Lord building the house, is God’s Presence building us to be the person that, in God the Fathers heart, we were designed to be.

We make choices, even to ignore is still a choice. God has equipped us to build with all the critical materials we need to build our lives in Jesus – reading and talking about Gods written word to us, praying – communicating with God, and being together and listening to expanded thoughts about building our lives in God. We have the security of God’s love, the ‘fruit of the Spirit’ – the ‘Gifts of the Spirit’ – the ‘Armour of the believer’ – *are there any that I we could include ??????????*

And it shows – bit like being a snail or turtle – we carry our house wherever we go.

It is not hard if our being is committed to Gods love for us – not based on our love for God - it is not “will you do this” – wrong question - but “does this respond to Gods love for you” - Jesus invites us personally to“take my yoke/ be joined to me, and learn of me for I am meek/strong and quiet and lowly/not putting myself first - in heart and you will find rest for your soul.”[[7]](#footnote-7)

Jesus is the corner stone, the rock that our life as a Christian is built on - “in Christ there is all of God in a human body”.[[8]](#footnote-8) Jesus often referred to himself as ‘son of man’. He was tempted in EVERY way that we can possibly be tempted yet he 100% choose to honour God the Father in his choices.[[9]](#footnote-9)

And so, for us “Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up, for I have overcome the world.[[10]](#footnote-10)

Where is our rock that our lives are built on: “Christ has entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; … he has put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. It is appointed unto us to die once, but after this is the judgement; so, Christ the Saviour was once offered to bear the sins of many; and to them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”[[11]](#footnote-11)

When the Holly Spirit controls our lives he will produce, even if it takes time, this kind of character in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.[[12]](#footnote-12)

“You have received the Holy Spirit and he lives within you, in your hearts, so that you do not need anyone to teach you what is right.”[[13]](#footnote-13)

I will ask the same question as Jesus did to his followers “who do you say that I am” and Peter answered “you are the Christ the Son of the Living God”[[14]](#footnote-14) and Jesus said that on that confession he would build His church – on that confession – not on Peter.

What is our confession – what is the basis of our salvation - John 3:16 I am saved because of the love of God reaching out to me because Jesus came and died for me – became sin for me, filled me with Gods righteousness,[[15]](#footnote-15) took me into the dwelling place that he “has gotten ready for me in God’s presence”.[[16]](#footnote-16) Yet we are in that dwelling place now – we are seated in Christ at the right hand of God[[17]](#footnote-17) – we are already in eternity in a place of authority and can resist temptation, we are in a place of authority and can be victors and can be in the “joy of the Lord” no matter what.[[18]](#footnote-18)

Can we say ‘I am seated with Christ in the heavenly places, and I can live in that place of authority now because now is part of eternity?’

**Or** – I can stand before Jesus after my death and say “Lord I did this and I did that in your name – and Jesus will say to me ‘go away from me you worker of iniquity because what you did was not authorised.”[[19]](#footnote-19) My building was on the sand of my own desires and thoughts and vanity and not on love and gratitude and the wonder of the God who loves me and called me and holds me.

**Be honest within ourselves and God, repent, believe, receive and smile from inside where Gods Presence lives in us**. We are individually a house that God is building on the foundation of Jesus and this flows into family, business, community.

It is God who has made us into faithful followers and commission us to … spread the Good News. He has put His brand on us – His mark of ownership – given us His Holy Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee that we belong to Him.[[20]](#footnote-20)

**Jesus is the stone that it all rests in and holds us up**.

Matthew 20:28

just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Matthew 8:20

Jesus \*said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

Matthew 9:6

But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—then He \*said to the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your bed and go home.”

Matthew 11:19

The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

Matthew 16:13

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

Matthew 18:11

[For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.]

Matthew 24:27

For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Mark 8:38

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

Luke 18:8

I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”

John 1:51

And He \*said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

John 5:27

and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.

John 6:53

So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.

John 12:23

And Jesus \*answered them, saying, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

John 13:31

Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus \*said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him;

Acts 7:56

and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

Revelation 1:13

and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.

Source: https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Jesus-As-Son-Of-Man

1. John 3:16 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 2 Corinthians 5:21 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Luke 15:11-32. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Hebrews 9:24-28. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. John 14-15 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. John 14-16 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Matthew 11:29 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Col 2:9 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Luke 22:42 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. John 16.33 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Hebrews 9:24-28. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Galatians 5:22,23,24. 2 Corinthians 1:21,22. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. 1 John 2:27 [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Matthew 16:16 [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Galatians 3:13,14. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. John 14:3 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Ephesians 2:6 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Matthew 25:21 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Matthew 7:23 and others [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. 1 John 2:27 [↑](#footnote-ref-20)