

House He's Building

A decorative flourish consisting of symmetrical, flowing scrollwork and curls, positioned horizontally below the text.



Day One: House He's Building

God is building a house. It's HIS house. The blueprint comes from HIS dream. It's not for us to build – He has His tools in hand, and He is building in the natural, what He has seen in the spiritual in His heart for so long. He dreams of this temple... this house. His heart longs for it. He's paid the price for it... with the very life of His Son.

Many have tried to build what they think He wants built. Many have tried to build the house that THEY want to build. Satan has tried to halt it, stop it and destroy it. But God is unstoppable. He is the Master Builder and He will have His way.

The house He's building is His **HOUSE OF LOVE**

Ephesians 2:20 – 22 (TPT)

You are rising like the perfectly fitted stones of the temple; and your lives are being built up together upon the ideal foundation laid by the apostles and prophets, and best of all, you are connected to the Head Cornerstone of the building, the Anointed One, Jesus Christ himself!

This entire building is under construction and is continually growing under his supervision until it rises up completed as the holy temple of the Lord himself. This means that God is transforming each one of you into the Holy of Holies, his dwelling place, through the power of the Holy Spirit living in you!

Wow! God's building something absolutely incredible, and we get to be a part of it! In fact, we ARE it! The temple that Ephesians 2:20 speaks of is a spiritual building, made up of His people – His Bride! God has dreamed of building this temple for a long time. When Abraham walked the earth, 'he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God' (Heb 11:10 NIV). And John prophesied in Revelation what the finished product of God's building will be:

Revelation 21:9 – 11 (NIV) *Then one of the seven angels who held the seven bowls containing the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come with me! I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." So he took me in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending*



out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

The house that God is building is from His blueprint for His church and how He wants it to look, and how He plans to fit it together so that so that it is glorious, without spot or wrinkle. For He fully intends to present His bride to himself as *a glorious church who is holy and without fault (Eph 5:27)*. And the only way this is going to happen is if the blueprints are His – not ours!

This temple is the most glorious, purposeful, powerful and beautiful thing on the face of this earth! Who wants to be built into it? I sure do!



Ask Holy Spirit to show you something of the blueprint that He has for His house. What do you see, hear or sense?



Day Two: House of Love

In 2014, when my youngest son was nine years old, he came into me one morning, gave me a beautiful hug and told me, ‘Mummy, I had a dream last night. God came down to earth on a cloud and taught us and then He went back on the cloud to heaven.’ I asked him, “What did He teach us about?” And he replied, “He taught us about His House of Love and how to love others. And He went around the world and taught people. He taught them all about love and how to treat others. He even went to the smallest islands to teach them. Then He went back on a cloud, it was all stormy and dark with lightning and thunder and winds... what is it called when it goes round and round... oh yeah, a cyclone. And the clouds He was on were shaped in the words ‘love’”.

Then he went on to say, “I do wish He told me what my brother looked like.” He then started recounting all the names of the people he knew in heaven and were looking forward to seeing (including his sibling – a miscarriage we’d had before the birth of our first child, his cousins – my sister’s miscarried babies, his grandparents and Great Uncle), and that he hoped to see a beloved horse and all his animals in heaven who had died. Then he added, “When I go to heaven, I want to ride on a hippo.”

I immediately knew this was a prophetic dream from God and that my son actually did see things in heaven. He’s always been a kid who (like me) didn’t want to know anything about heaven because he didn’t want to think about dying and the possibility of him not finishing what he was put on the earth for, before going to heaven. So he’d never let me even so much as talk about heaven. If I mentioned it at all, he would get out of the room or basically put his hands over his ears. But here he was, coming to me to tell me excitedly about heaven. I also don’t believe he’d known about the miscarriage we’d had the month before our first born son was conceived, and yet he knew he had a brother in heaven.

I asked the Lord, ‘What is the House of Love?’ and He immediately spoke to my heart, ‘My new wineskin church.’

I have called it the House of Love ever since, because I believe God was showing me that this is what HE calls it. And why wouldn’t He call it that? Love is what it all boils down to. God IS love (1 John 4:16), and the highest



commandment He has given us is to love Him and love others (Mark 12:30 - 31). He also told us that it would be our oneness with Him, Father and Holy Spirit that would cause the world to believe (John 17:21). What is oneness other than absolute purity of love! There's no separating something which is one. It cannot be divided through offense, misunderstanding or difference. It is simply ONE.

It's not surprising then that I struggle when people speak about 'their churches' and refer to them as "THIS house", as though there's any way to separate what God is building. In fact, the reference to "this house" shows that in their minds, there's actually a separation and that there's more than one church... more than one house. But that's not what Jesus tells us. He says that there is no such thing as 'this house' or 'that house' of God. There is one body, one Spirit (Eph 4:5), one house, and it's not a denominational house and it's not a house based on theology— it's a singular house and it's wholly built in and by LOVE.

After all, if God IS love, then when we try to separate His house, we are attempting to separate Him! And He is not going to divide Himself up for anything or anyone. Love is who He is, and therefore love is who we are, if we will believe it and imitate our Father as He has directed us to (Eph 5:1).

Over the next few weeks, we're going to look at what His House of Love really looks like. And by the time we do that, we'll be able to recognise what He is really building on this earth – and what mankind is building. Let's be part of the house that HE is building.



House of Love. Singular. Purity of love. How does this differ to what we see in the church today? And what do you think Holy Spirit wants you to do with this revelation?



Day Three: The House Built by Love

In order for us to recognise the difference between what God is building and what man is building, we have to know what His House of Love looks like. There are a number of keys the Bible gives us, to identify what His House looks like. The first key is that it is built by love.

The House is Built by LOVE

Somewhere along the line, we as a body got the idea that love is something basic that we were taught back in Sunday School, and as we get older, we have to move onto 'higher and deeper' things. But what if love is the highest and deepest thing we could ever learn?

We've have the idea that if we understand something in our mind, that means we know it. But we don't realise the difference between knowing something in our heads and KNOWING something in our hearts, as a deep revelation. Many in the body of Christ do not know that they know that they know that God, Jesus and Holy Spirit love them. They might think they do, but their words, thoughts and actions indicate otherwise. When someone else is blessed or healed, and they think... *'That would be right, it would happen for someone else, but not for me.'* Or if they have a nagging sense that if they are not good enough, God will not receive them. Until Love is truly received into our hearts as a revelation and part of our sense of who we are, we will neither feel secure in His love, nor will we truly be able to give it to others. We can only give what we have received. *He who loves not knows not God for God is love (1 John 4:8).*

There is one gauge of maturity in the body of Christ and it is not theological knowledge, intellectual understanding or eloquence of speech. The only thing Jesus gave us which will determine our spiritual maturity is how developed we are in love. If there's one thing that keeps people in perpetual immaturity, it is a lack of developed love. We only have to look at the body of Christ and see the fighting, splits, division, divorces, accusation and segregation to know that something is greatly amiss. Is it love to be divided up into 30 000 or more separate denominations, each determined that their 'theology' is right, and refusing to work with or even associate with their brothers and sisters from other denominations? Is it love to talk about other believers behind their backs? Is it love when believers get divorced at the same rate as the world? Is



it love even to know other believers in our town or area but not be in relationship with them – lovelessness by neglect?

John 17:21 – 23 clearly reveals to us that if there's one reason the world does not believe, it's because they are not seeing the love and oneness that true maturity would demonstrate.

...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Oneness demands the highest level of maturity because it is the deepest purity of love. Only the developed in love... only the truly mature can walk in it. And this is why the body has walked in infancy for so long and has been waiting for promises to manifest in this earth which we've not yet seen. Because He will *do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think, according to the power that works in us (Eph 3:20).* We will not see the miracles of His House until we release the love in His house.

LOVE is the test of true maturity.

We may have been a believer for 50 years, but if we have not learned how to truly and deeply love in that time (as evidenced in the relationships around us and our intimacy with Jesus), a believer who has been saved one year may walk in a maturity which exceeds ours, because maturity is not gauged on timeframe or knowledge, but on whether or not we are like Jesus, and He IS love.

When we can treat others with perfect love regardless of how they treat us in return and in fact even in the face of hatred and accusation... when we can see others *not after the flesh but after the spirit (Rom 8:1 & 4)*... when we can value every single person - regardless of their theological position - and value relationship over being 'right'... when in fact nothing is more important to us in the whole world than loving deeply in relationships... when nothing in this world will move us from love, THEN we'll know we are truly mature. If we can't truly love, how can He build us into a house which IS love? We'll find ourselves



outside and looking in, saved but not fruitful, or being built into something that man is creating. Let us never be found anywhere else but in the purity of His love!



If love is the gauge of true maturity, what do you feel Holy Spirit is saying to you about your purity of love and your maturity as part of His body?



Day Four: Building His House

So we've realised that this house is a house of LOVE, and only purity of love is able to be built into what He is creating. The second key to realise so that we can recognise His house is that it is GOD who is building it – not man.

HE is Building His House

Ephesians 2:20 – 22 is very clear. The architect and builder of this house is God Himself. Yes, there are many living stones in this house, and each of us are being built into it. But He is the one who says who goes where. He is the one who holds the blueprint. He is well able to build His House of Love.

Sadly, many blueprints have existed in the body of Christ – and not all of them line up with God's. We have seen much evidence of kingdom building – or we could say 'house building'. The question is, whose kingdom and whose house is being built?

Many have used the 'under cover' theology to say, 'come in here under my vision'. But if that vision has an ounce of the flesh in it, it's not going to align with the blueprint of God. Yet many hang onto it for dear life, determined to make it happen, using force (which does not proceed from the Kingdom of God) to build their vision... only to discover when it is too late (sometimes once they're in heaven) that this was not what God was building, that it was what they were building, and their energy was spent in vain.

Psalm 127:1 (NKJV) *Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it...*

That's the thing about the House of Love. We can't control it, we can't contain it and we probably can't even imagine how glorious the finished building is going to look. Our earth-based perspective is so small compared to God's big picture, glorious perspective, that we can't possibly hope to determine how things should look, or who should fit where.

He's the one who knows how to make it all fit into perfect place, each person side by side. He's doing far more than any of us realise – awakening people to their identity and callings in Him, drawing Divine connections between those who are called to journey together in an area of calling, creating finances,



birthing miracles and much, much more. He's setting things up that we couldn't hope to think of ourselves.

There is so much peace in being fit into His house, instead of trying to build our own. We must be truthful with our hearts and be careful to identify any single shred of wanting to build our own kingdom, or having a vision that is 'ours' instead of 'His'. Do we have an ounce – even a whiff – of competition in our hearts? Are we threatened when we see people drawn to other congregations and ministries in the body of Christ, or do we consider them 'our' people because we're still tallying our 'success' statistics? Will we work with others in the body of Christ to receive His strategic plans, or do we go it on our own? Will we refuse to journey with people who come from different denominations to us, because their theology isn't as 'spiritual' as ours? These things sound very blunt but be sure, they will sound very subtle in your heart, and unless Holy Spirit reveals them to you, they will stay covered to you, yet affect everything you do.

Let me tell you when Christ uncovered my own subtle 'kingdom building' in my heart. He had downloaded to me a vision of what He wanted to do to bring transformation to our town. I was very excited and I knew that it was impossible outside of the Holy Spirit. But when I looked around at the congregations in our town, I realised that the congregation I was attending was the only one whose 'theology' believed in the power of the Holy Spirit. I said, *'Lord, we're the only ones who believe in the Holy Spirit. I suppose we'll be the ones to do it.'* Now, Holy Spirit is very kind and gentle, but if I ever got a 'slap up the side of the head' from Him, it was then! He spoke to me in a voice I couldn't hear with my physical ears but I could hear it with my spiritual ears, and He said each word firmly. "I will have my spirit arise in EVERY place", and I knew He meant from every congregation. I was quite shaken! And as it turned out, I could do absolutely nothing about the vision He had given me except to trust Him and pray. My pastor had already rejected what I felt God was saying and I had no recognisable spiritual leadership position in the town, though I knew I had authority in heaven. So I prayed, and He started revealing to me, people He had placed in EVERY congregation in the town, who were filled with the Holy Spirit. He started connecting these people together as remnant, and I came to realise that HE was building HIS house. And no one congregation would claim His glory.



We must let go of the need to control. Partnering with God as He builds His temple is so easy. Walking in oneness with Him day by day, obeying His every prompting and word, making love your life, valuing the treasure we see in each other, and trusting Him to do the rest... It's so simple, and we can live from a place of peace, without the effort of having to 'build our vision'... while He builds us into His.

Soak Time

Have you sensed even a whiff of kingdom building in your heart as you have read this devotional? Ask the Lord to show you what He is building in your life, and what you have been building. What does He want you to do about it?



Day Five: WE are His House

The house is built by love, and it is He who is building it. The next key for identifying His House of love is that it's not a physical house. In fact, WE are His house.

We are His House

The Bible refers to us as living stones in the house that God is building – His House of Love.

1 Peter 2:5 (NLT) *And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple...*

In other words, we are living stones of love, built into His House of Love.

The words 'church' and 'house' have been used so much in the context of buildings that sometimes we forget that the church is not the building we go to; but that we actually ARE the church. When Jesus first introduced the church, He used the Greek word 'Ekklesia', which means the 'called out ones'. It didn't represent timber, bricks or stained glass windows. It represented people. And the term Ekklesia was not a new, 'spiritual' term that Jesus coined just for the occasion. It was actually a term used by the Roman governing rulers, to describe a group of people that they sent into new territories that the Roman armies had conquered. They infiltrated every area of society, to teach the newly conquered people how to 'be' Roman in every sense of the word. They brought the culture of Rome to every place they went. In the same way, the Ekklesia (translated 'church') is intended to infiltrate all areas of society, to bring the Kingdom of God to each place we go.

So when we start thinking about the church in this manner, and stop thinking of the church as being a building, we realise that we don't 'go to church' and we don't talk about 'this church' or 'that church'. When two or more of us gather together in His name – in the marketplace, in governmental offices, in homes, or wherever His people are – this is the church. Even when we are alone with Him, we – along with all of His other children – are the church.

Ephesians 2:20 (TPT) *You are rising* *like the perfectly fitted stones of the temple; and your lives are being built up together upon the ideal foundation*



laid by the apostles and prophets, and best of all, you are connected to the Head Cornerstone of the building, the Anointed One, Jesus Christ himself!

We are the stones and Jesus is the Head Cornerstone. We are all meant to be connected to Him. A cornerstone itself is a symbol of unity and building together. It is defined as 'a stone uniting two masonry walls at an intersection'. The Cornerstone brings us together. He is the Head. He sets out the entire building. And He is building us into it, as we walk in the holiness of love, as He does.

Isaiah 51:1 (NIV) Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn.

We are all hewn from the same quarry. We are, we could say, 'a chip off the old block'! And as we imitate our Father, like dearly beloved children, we will find that our minds are no longer on the building program, but on building the hearts of the people who gather inside the building.

I have a friend who said once, she would love to tear down all of the church buildings, so that the believers could see that it's not the buildings that make the church, but the people. And in fact, think about it... if we didn't have walls to separate us, maybe we would come together (in homes, town halls, conference centres)... and if we didn't have buildings to maintain, maybe we could use our time and financial resources to build the kingdom of God and love our communities to life and meet their felt needs, seeing real transformation. Maybe we would lay down our own visions and gather together to hear God's collective vision for our towns and cities. Has God directed people to acquire buildings? Yes. But have we gone so far in this area, we've lost our sense of what the real building is? YES!

We ARE the church. He is building and fitting US together. Praise God for the privilege to be part of what He is doing.



Soak Time

What has the word 'church' meant to you? Have you always seen the church as a building or have you been acutely aware of yourself as BEING the church?
