

House He's Building

A decorative flourish consisting of a central horizontal line with symmetrical, ornate scrollwork extending outwards from both ends.



WEEK ONE

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!

Soak Time

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.

Soak Time

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 had 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 they have a nagging sense that they are not good enough, and 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 His 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.

Just stop and meditate on those astonishing verses – the promises and responsibilities that they hold!

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), a scripture that we encounter in the Bible, directly after three verses on understanding and receiving His love:

Ephesians 3:17 – 19 (TPT) *Then, by constantly using your faith, the life of Christ will be released deep inside you, and the resting place of his love will become the very source and root of your life. Then you will be empowered to discover what every holy one experiences – the great magnitude of the astonishing love of Christ in all its dimensions. How deeply intimate and far-reaching is his love! How enduring and inclusive it is! Endless love beyond measurement that transcends our understanding – this extravagant love pours into you until you are filled to overflowing with the fullness of God.*

Without love, there is no power. 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!

Soak Time

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 on paper, 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 (which incidentally is not His answer to the salvation of the world), 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 no one 'group' was going to get the glory for what He was going to do. 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. With the understanding I had at that time, I didn't realise I could simply hear from God and obey Him, without asking permission from someone else. I didn't realise that God didn't intend for there to be anything or anyone between Him and me. At that time, I also had no idea that God was building anything other



than the traditional 'seen church'. I didn't realise there was any option but to go to God 'through' my Pastor (what a lie!), and any way of building other than a traditional congregation. 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, sheds, even in paddocks)... 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?



WEEK TWO

Day One: Vision for THE Church

Last week, we looked at the fact that the House of Love that God is building, is a house of people. WE are His house and He is building us all up together, according to Ephesians 2:20 – 22. The 'Ekklesia' (the word translated 'church') never ever describes an institution or a building – it describes people. People are what matters to God's heart, and His church is His people.

Another place where we never find buildings and institutions described is in vision. If you scour the New Testament from one end to the other, you will never find a vision statement for a congregation. That's because Holy Spirit never gave one and they were people who lived by the power of the Holy Spirit, not their own flesh, good ideas, and flashy designs. What we do see, is vision for THE church, of which they were part, such as what we term 'the Great Commission' given by Jesus to *go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19 NLT)*.

Just as vision was given to THE church as a whole, so too were instructions. Ephesians 4:3 – 6 is one such example of vision and instructions together. Paul actually states that we are all called into the same glorious hope of divine destiny.

Ephesians 4:3 – 6 (TPT) *Be faithful to guard the sweet harmony of the Holy Spirit among you in the bonds of peace, so that you will be one body and one spirit, as you were all called into the same glorious hope of divine destiny. For the Lord God is one, and so are we! For we share in one faith, one baptism, and one Father. He is the perfect Father who leads us all, works through us all, and lives in us all!*

Now you may wonder what I mean, as this letter was written to the Ephesians church. Isn't that vision for a specific congregation? No! The very first verse clearly tells us who this letter was for:

Ephesians 1:1 (NLT) *This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I am writing to God's holy people in Ephesus, who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus.*



What you discover in this letter is the same as any other letter that was written. They were always written to people! Never to institutions! And they were always designated for THE church in a given geographic location. The only distinction ever made was for geography – not institution, individual vision of congregations or denominations or any other such thing. The mindset of the early church was that there was one church and that it was made up of PEOPLE. They met in homes and had larger regional gatherings from time to time, in public places.

They didn't have individual church visions because they knew what the vision was for THE church and they knew they were each part of it.

Each person knew the same Father led them all, worked through them all, and lived through them all. There were no individual congregation or institutional vision statements because there was no concept of a congregation or a group of believers being separate from another group of believers. There was no concept of believers having different instructions. And there certainly was no concept of only some special people in the church having the vision that everyone else was to 'come under'. They all had the same vision, the same instructions, and the same Father working through them to fulfil His vision and instructions. Each believer was as valuable, important and needed as the next. And as such, they were all passionate and engaged in the vision.

Soak Time

What is the vision for THE church, as you understand it?



Day Two: Vision for Individuals

Yesterday, we looked at the fact that vision was never given in the early church, to specific congregations or groups of believers. In fact there was only ever three levels of vision given. The first was Churchwide vision, which we've briefly looked at yesterday. The second was individual vision. And this vision was more on the level of individual calling – vision for who they were in the fulfilment of the Churchwide vision.

Individuals received callings and instructions for their lives – essentially, their identity and who they were and how they fit into the vision of THE church. Peter was told by Jesus to *'Feed my sheep'* (John 20:17 NLT). Jesus had already said to Peter that he was the rock on which Jesus was going to build His church (Matt 16:17 – 29). In Acts 9:15, Saul's (who became Paul) vision is revealed by the Lord. *...for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel.*

Vision was always given to individuals and to the church, as comprised of individuals. Often even to the believers in a specific geographic location. But never to a 'congregation' (which were house churches). Never to a structure, institution or building. And never was the vision given to build buildings and create institutions. It was always about individual callings coming together collectively, to fulfil the vision of THE church. In fact, the disciples and believers never even considered it to be any different than that – they had no framework or concept of the church either being buildings or being fragmented.

Vision for individual congregations doesn't exist in His eyes.

I'm sure many people will find that statement unpopular, but I believe that God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb 13:8), and we simply have not been given a blueprint for this. And when we create vision for individual congregations, it becomes a means of division, keeping the churchwide vision unfulfilled because it's only when we are one that the world will believe (Jn 17:19 – 21).

Individuals are given calling (because the church is a collection of individuals, each filled with the treasures of Christ and equally valuable to Him). They are given an individual vision of who they are and what they have been called to, to help fulfil the vision of the wider church, within the concept of oneness –



that we need what Christ places in each one of us, and it's only as we come together that we see the fullness of Christ.

And ALL are given vision. Not just those called as pastors or currently recognised leaders in the church (and if we were in early church times, many recognised leaders now would not be considered leaders, and many unrecognised and ignored people would be. But that's a discussion for another week...). All have a calling, all have a vision within the vision, and the New Testament gives us no instruction to seek vision for 'a church', or 'a congregation'. All we can find is instructions to the church in a specified geographic area.

Imagine what would happen if the vision of individuals congregations and pastors shifted from upgrading buildings, to uncovering the individual callings of the people within the four walls – those who actually comprise the church! What would happen if people weren't told their job was to 'come under' the vision of the pastor, and instead they were empowered to hear the Lord's vision for their own lives. What if people were no longer kept apart, congregation from congregation, and they discovered that their individual callings were similar, and they started working together – outside of the 'church' – to solve the problems of society as lead of the Lord. We would soon find that the world would believe! We would soon find that there wouldn't be any area of human need where God had not sent His people. But while we still see the church as separate 'churches' with buildings that keep us within their four walls, and separate visions that people are told they are required to come under, the treasure chests of the people will never open, and the world will lie in wait and longing for us to embrace the truth.



Soak Time

How many times have you 'come under' a 'vision' for an institution, congregation or organisation? Has this distracted from or added to your understanding of the church as people, and as a singular body?



Day Three: HE is Our Vision

We are His house, and He has individual identity which brings vision for each and every one of us. However, there is one really important thing we must remember about individual vision. It's never OUR vision. It's always HIS. And if our vision ever becomes more important to us than Him, we'll lose it.

A dear friend of mine told me about a vision in which she saw many babies floating and she asked the Lord what they were. He said, "These are the aborted babies because people took their eyes off Me and put them on the vision." I almost cried when I heard that – all of these precious spiritual babies that were conceived by Holy Spirit in people's hearts... all the assignments needed to see the world saved, delivered and set free... and because the vision became the reward, they were lost to the world!

God told Abraham, when He gave Him his individual calling, that God Himself would be Abraham's exceedingly great reward (Gen 15:1). For Abraham, who God called, 'My friend', the reward was never about the fulfilment of the promise (his individual calling). His reward was always God Himself. And it's not to be any different for us. If Christ Himself – knowing Him more, becoming one with Him, loving Him – is not our ultimate vision and hope, then we'll be looking for something else to fulfil us. We may birth something, but it won't be what He planted in our hearts, because that will be aborted in favour of something we have conceived.

Vision without a revelation of oneness with Jesus and each other is dangerous. Our hearts must view what God shows us about ourselves and what He wants us to do, through the lens of knowing that we are one with Him, and it's His Life in us which accomplishes the vision. And no matter how lofty or wonderful the individual vision He gives to us, it is never more wonderful than Jesus Himself!



Soak Time

Which consumes your focus more? Your vision or Jesus?

Is your individual vision really yours? Actually, is it really HIS vision for you? Or is it an institutional, denominational 'vision' that you were expected to 'come under'?



Day Four: Vision for Nations

And this brings us to the last level of vision and that is national vision. But here's an interesting thing – Nations are individuals to God. Consider the imagery and words used as God describes nations.

Genesis 18:18 (NIV) Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation.

And the nation which came from Abraham was Israel. He also said:

Genesis 26:24 (NLT) ...I will multiply your descendants, and they will become a great nation.

The nation came out of the loins of one man, in God's eyes. From Abraham, the nation was birthed, and it was from His descendants that Israel became. How does God see Israel? As an individual. Just look at the words He used in Exodus 4 to describe it:

Exodus 4:22 (NASB) ...Israel is My son, My firstborn.

And if that didn't convince us that God sees nations as individuals, consider this. The calling given to Abraham, from whom Israel came, is now the calling for the nation of Israel – to bless the nations of the world.

Genesis 12:2 – 3 (NLT) I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.

Can I make this point loud and clear - God and the vision He gives is always about people, people, people, because the house He's building is made up of people. It's NEVER about institutions, or organisations. I am confident to say that God has never, ever given a vision for a denomination. He has never ever given a vision for a 'local church' (which in His eyes, does not exist). He doesn't see institutions any more than He sees sin when He looks at us and calls us the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Cor 5:21). It's just not in His framework; He sees us perfect in Christ Jesus. And He sees His church as a gathering of His children – institution is never part of His view. He doesn't give prophetic words about 'this house' and 'that house'. Yes, I believe He gives the words to the



people in those so-called 'houses' but it's the framework of the ones delivering the message who declare it to be over 'this house'. Every prophetic word is received by a human being, and goes through their 'filter' of understanding and perspective. God will declare direction and prophetic promise to people, but that's who the promise is for – the people, not the institution.

He needs us to start thinking, speaking, declaring and receiving through His filter... His heart. We are one. God is about people. As people receive and fulfil the vision He gives them individually for their lives (often working together with those called to the same area to do so), the vision of THE church is fulfilled. And when we do that, we will see His commission to us finally completed – the discipleship of the nations...the expansion of the Kingdom... the transformation of the world.

Soak Time

What is Holy Spirit saying to you on the subject of vision?



Day Five: Built into His House

So this brings us back to where we started – WE are His House. His House is people. Joey LeTourneau describes this beautifully:

*“We are watching the Father make His children, His sons and daughters, into a house. When David wanted to build God a house out of the purest of desires, God’s answer was no. Instead, the Lord told David, “I will make **you** a house” (see 2 Sam. 7:11). God’s best house is the one He grows out of those who co-labor with Him to give life! In fact, that was the original vision in the Garden of Eden, to “Be fruitful and multiply.” We often focus on houses of a physical structure; but with God, whether through Abraham, David, or Jesus, God’s priority and the ultimate blessing He would bestow was to make His house in and from His people, empowering a family structure of people who are sent, who go, who stretch out the walls of His house to cover His family around the world.*

God is making us a house. This house is full of spiritual sons and daughters who become spiritual fathers and mothers who live out an overflowing, life-giving multiplication that redeems His family all around the world. We look at those who are lost, poor, orphaned, or widowed, but whatever a person’s current state, God already sees that person as His child, part of His family.”
Joey Letourneau TPOUU

Is this not beautiful imagery? Just as David, God is making US a house. And it’s an amazing house! It’s extravagant and glorious, world-changing and absolutely full of love! And in the whole scheme of things, there’s still a long way to go. But He’s going to keep building until what He sees, matches His blueprint, because God is not one who gives up or stops short.

Philippians 1:6 (NLT) *And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns...*

Is it possible to be His child and yet not be built into His house, His temple? I believe so. Because we all have free will – if we try to build ourselves into something that we’re building, and it’s not something that He’s building, we may indeed find ourselves as part of a house, but it won’t be His House of love. But if we’ll allow Him to awaken the vision inside of us – His vision for us within His vision for the church – and totally submit ourselves to only Him as He



brings it to pass, He will build us into His House of Love. And in the end, the House of Love is the only house which will stand.

Soak Time

Now that you are seeing what His House of Love looks like, it's time to ask yourself some sobering questions. Are you being built into His house? Or are you building something else?



WEEK THREE

Day One: A Singular House

The House that God is building cannot be built by man. Over the past two weeks, we've been looking at how we can recognise what God is doing, and we've discovered that God's house is a spiritual building which is built by love, HE is building it, and WE are His house. Today we'll see the next key, which is this: The house God is building is a singular house.

It's a Singular House

Just think about the other words that God has used in the Bible to describe us, His temple. Yes, we're the house He's building. But we're also described as the Bride of Christ, and the Church. These references are both absolutely singular. There's no description of 'Brides' in the Bible. And though there are places where it says 'the churches' this is more a translation issue, or describing different geographical gatherings. The Greek word translated 'churches' is actually 'Ekklesia', and we've already looked at what this means. The Bible is absolutely clear that there is one church, under Him, and the New Testament church lived this in every conceivable way. There were times they assembled together geographically, but they were one.

It's also very clear in Ephesians 2:20 – 22 where He describes His temple, that He's talking about one building, not multiple buildings. It says, *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.*

No plural references in there! There's only ONE temple... one house that He is building. There is absolutely no mention of multiple houses in this scripture or any other scripture in the New Testament. Funny that – there's also no mention of the over 30 000 different denominations we currently have in the world, nor is there any instruction to divide His singular temple up into them.

In 1 Corinthians, He also describes us as a singular garden, an analogy for the singular house He's building.

1 Corinthians 3:9 (TPT) *We are coworkers with God and you are God's cultivated garden, the house he is building.*



He is not in any way, shape or form describing a multiple. And why would He? Paul understood the dangers of not being unified and he warned against division around theology (human perspective, not God's), which is in essence what denominationalism is. Paul said, *But let me ask you, is Christ divided up into groups? (1 Cor 1:13 TPT).*

In 1 Corinthians 1:10 (TPT), He says, *I urge you, my brothers and sisters, for the sake of the name of our Lord Jesus, to agree to live in unity with one another and put to rest any division that attempts to tear you apart. Be restored as one united body living in perfect harmony.*

The Passion Translation footnote in this section, titled 'Paul Addresses Divisions in the Church' says:

Or "that you all speak the same thing" that is, to have a united testimony. The Aramaic is "that you may all be of one word." The congregation of believers in Corinth was sorely divided. They were divided over which leader or apostle they followed, over the limits of their freedom, over their socio-economic status, and over spiritual gifts. Division among believers grossly hinders our message and ministry to the world of unbelievers. Paul is pleading with them to unite around the love of God for one another.

And just in case we missed it, he also says in 1 Corinthians 3:3 – 4 (TPT) *...for you are living your lives dominated by the mind-set of the flesh...Do you compare yourself with others? Do you quarrel like children and end up taking sides? If so, this proves that you are living your lives centred on yourselves, dominated by the mind-set of the flesh, and behaving like unbelievers. For when you divide yourselves up in groups – a "Paul group" and an "Apollos group" – you're acting like people without the Spirit's influence.*

Is that who we want to be? People acting without the Spirit's influence? Because we can be sure that if we're dividing ourselves up and centering around anything other than Jesus Christ, we're doing exactly that. We've already divided ourselves up into a 'Presbyterian' group, a 'Pentecostal group', a 'Wesleyan group', and so on. What do we really think God thinks about this...?



Soak Time

Is there any area in the church, in which you're taking sides or dividing into groups?



Day Two: Gathering Around People

I believe as I've been writing this that the Lord has shown me that our tendency to divide up into groups to gather around people is one of the reasons why there is no hierarchy in the Kingdom of God. It's also why He is so centred on opening the treasure chests of Glory embedded in each of our hearts, as described in Colossians 1:26 – 27 (TPT).

Colossians 1:26 – 27 (TPT) *There is a divine mystery – a secret surprise that has been concealed from the world for generations, but now it's being revealed, unfolded and manifested for every holy believer to experience. Living within you is the Christ who floods you with the expectation of glory! This mystery of Christ, embedded within us, becomes a heavenly treasure chest of hope filled with the riches of glory for his people, and God wants everyone to know it!*

Christ lives in each one of us and He is a treasure chest of glory within us. However, when there is hierarchy and only some of the 'leaders' get to have their treasure chests opened, the spotlight goes on them, and the rest of the people (who have no idea they have their own treasure chest because they've been told to 'come in here under my vision' instead of opening it) find the most glorious looking person or 'vision' to gather around. Then we have exactly what Paul described: A 'Paul' group and an 'Apollos' group.

See the groups he described were actually not around theological groups - a 'circumcision' group and a 'non-circumcision' group'. It wasn't actually theology so much that they gathered around, but people. And I think if we were to study out the formation of denominations around the world, this is actually what has happened. Each person has started their 'group' or their 'denomination' with their own set of theology, their own perspective. But essentially it's been the fact that there was a person with the spotlight on them... many times a person who genuinely loved the Lord and who was walking with their treasure chest wide open. But the people around them looked on in amazement at the beauty of that opened treasure chest. People were looking for a leader to lead them instead of going themselves, and when they found that leader, they actually took on that leader's theology as their own.

Denominations aren't so much about separate theology as the hierarchy of 'the celebrity ones'. Oh, is that too harsh? I don't think so. What I see when I



look around me at the church these days saddens me greatly. I call it 'celebrity pastor syndrome'. Where the church thinks it's OK, or even normal, to put the spotlight on and herald and gather around and applaud a revered 'leader' that is most certainly higher on the hierarchical ladder than they are. And while I believe very strongly that every 'leader' has a treasure chests which should be opened and celebrated, it's dangerous where we're going. Because so too does every other person, but they're not being given permission or space to open them!

I recently sat in a great, big conference where there were thousands of women in the seats – and one woman on the spotlight on the stage. And I just felt so heartbroken. I knew the woman on the stage had beautiful treasure and it was wonderful that she was sharing it with everyone. But when would the thousands of women sitting in their seats ever get to open and share their treasure with others? When would we begin to celebrate what was contained in the hearts of each person represented instead of sit there, applauding the one on show? Because we need the treasure contained in the whole body, not just a few!

As we were sitting there and I was struggling with these things in my heart, my friend saw a 1961 prophecy by Tommy Hicks on her facebook feed and showed me. It talked of the end time army of God – the nameless, faceless, powerful, anointed Army of God... the unknowns and the unqualified... the nobodies stretching forth their hands in the Name of Jesus. No one was higher than anyone else, His same power flowed through them all.

The entire prophecy is important for every believer to read, and it has been attached to this devotional. But here is part of it:

"...the anointing of God was upon these people as they went forward in the name of the Lord. I saw these men and women as they went forth. They were ditch diggers, they were washerwomen, they were rich men, they were poor men. I saw people who were bound with paralysis and sickness and blindness and deafness. As the Lord stretched forth to give them this anointing they became well, they became healed, and they went forth!..."

God is going to give to the world a demonstration in this last hour as the world has never known. These men and women are of all walks of life, degrees will mean nothing. I saw these workers as they were going over the face of the



earth. When one would stumble and fall, another would come and pick him up. There were no “big I” and “little you” but every mountain was brought low and every valley was exalted, and they seemed to have one thing in common — there was a divine love, a divine love that seemed to flow forth from these people as they worked together, and as they lived together. It was the most glorious sight that I have ever know, Jesus Christ was the theme of their life. They continued and it seemed the days went by as I stood and beheld this sight. I could only cry, and sometimes I laughed. It was so wonderful as these people went throughout the face of the whole earth, bringing forth in this last end time...

Angry mobs came to them with swords and with guns. And like Jesus, they passed through the multitudes and they could not find them, but they went forth in the name of the Lord, and everywhere they stretched forth their hands, the sick were healed, the blind eyes were opened. There was not a long prayer, and after I had reviewed the vision many times in my mind, and I thought about it many times, I realized that I never saw a church, and I never saw or heard a denomination, but these people were going in the name of the Lord of Hosts. Hallelujah!”

I was so excited by this prophecy, but at the same time I was also challenged by it because I knew I would have to settle something in my heart once and for all. I went out into the foyer with this word and I have to admit, I was surprised at what I found in my heart. This word described an army of nobodies, who functioned as one and carried the glory of the Lord over the world. No one was higher or lower than anyone else, and each one who said yes was equally valuable and life-carrying. I realised that I had to be willing to be a nothing for Him. Though I knew I would always mean everything to Jesus and my value is without measure (as is yours), I knew there could be no pride, no spotlight, no climbing the ladder for me. My traditional mindset had to go. I had spent my life thus far with huge vision, wanting to ‘make a difference to the world’... I wanted people know that I had lived and to leave a mark which impacted people long after I was gone. But really, deep down I wanted a spotlight. I wanted to succeed and I wanted to be on the top of the hierarchy. Though my motive was genuinely to help people and make the world a better place, I wanted to do it the way I’d seen it done. And it wasn’t kingdom.



And so I struggled within myself, until I could truthfully say, 'Yes Lord, I'll be a nobody for you.' And I knew I was OK with that, because it's the only answer for the world, it's the only answer for the church and most of all, it's what His heart wants.

Soak Time

Are you willing to be a nobody for Him?



Day Three: Houses of Bondage

Rather than big, flashy conferences where we herald one person above the others, and flex the power of 'this house', He just wants us to each be submitted to Him, be in fellowship with one another, and step out and do what He has whispered to each one of us in the secret place.

Church 'leaders' who won't value the treasure that surrounds them, not only miss out greatly on the revelation that the Lord wants to bring to them through other people, but they become guilty of overseeing houses of bondage. I know, my jaw dropped too when God used this phrase to describe the traditional church structure we see (and Pentecostal churches are just as guilty, if not more so). This is the scripture He gave me:

Isaiah 42:22 (NKJV) *But this is a people robbed and plundered; they are all of them snared in holes and hidden in houses of bondage. They have become a prey, with no one to say, Restore them!*

Why? How? Because they sit in the pews week after week, year after year, with nobody giving them permission to open their treasure chests, and no one else in the church knowing just what is contained inside of them. If they happen to be willing to volunteer for something the 'celebrity pastor' has deemed is part of the vision of 'this house', then they might get to use a small portion of their treasure chest. But hear from the Lord for themselves and simply obey it – that's OK if they're talking to the neighbour next door, but if they're to preach or gather people, unify His body or minister to the community... if they're to do something which doesn't 'fit' the vision of the church, what happens then? These people are immediately labelled 'rebellious', and the 'leaders' warn others not to be led astray by them.

If you haven't experienced this before, you may well not believe me. But I've experienced it and I've seen it happen over and over and over again, to 'lay people' (not a term I see anywhere in the Bible) who get a hold of the revelation of Christ in them and come into intimacy with Christ Jesus. He opens their treasure chest and they are submitted and simply obey Him, at which point we should be celebrating because heaven certainly is. But oh, the angst it causes in the hearts of those who are the 'leaders' in the spotlight!

I've seen and experienced church pastors intentionally tell people not to go to a weekend gathering that Holy Spirit had clearly directed a 'nobody' believer to



run (and which was confirmed through other men and women of God). I've seen moves towards the unifying of His body and the transformation of His towns be viewed with suspicion and threat. The suspicion has been towards people whose hearts are to bring the body of Christ together in unity and oneness and who despise division. And yet the most frequent fear of the pastors has been that these same people are going to 'start another church', take 'their' people and be in competition with them. How far have we fallen! And this fear is especially laughable when the people they've been suspicious of have such a sense of the oneness of the church that they don't even have a frame of reference for 'starting a church'. How can you start something that already exists in singular form?

And when something happens in the body of Christ that is of benefit to the body and lifts high the name of Jesus, why is it that the immediate reaction is not joy, but rather division and competition? Because if we truly saw ourselves as one body, we would be excited when others partner with Him to build His Kingdom. But sadly, it seems as though the only kingdom that it's OK for people to build is our own. This is a serious indictment on the church and we need to come back to a place where others building His kingdom becomes about completion, not competition.

Soak Time

Have you ever experienced the sense of being 'hidden and snared' in houses of bondage? Have you seen others as competition instead of completion (or be seen as competition)?



Day Four: A Divided House Will Fall

It's easy to see how far removed we are from His vision of the singular church! God is going to have to do some exposing of hearts and I believe it's coming soon. The church may look messy for a while, because some of the kingdoms which have been built will either need to change, come down, or they will starve as the Presence of the Lord leaves those places. But God is going to restore the church. Even in the midst of the mess, it's going to be glorious.

And God has to bring restoration, because it's for the sake of His body. It's for the sake of our lives. And it's for the sake of the world. When we are in competition with one another, rather than completion, this is what we look like and what we're doing:

Galatians 5:15 (TPT) *But if you continue to criticize and come against each other over minor issues, you're acting like wild beasts trying to destroy one another!*

Luke 11:17 (NIV) *Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.*

In other words, division makes us enemies instead of brothers and sisters. Any division between us is in effect a deliberate act to destroy the house He's building. Imagine what the house looks like when we're separated and we're not built together. What do we have? Not a house, but mere walls. Walls divide! They keep us apart. Walls that are unjoined let the enemy in, and we find ourselves without protection.

Worst of all, there's no cornerstone! A cornerstone is described as *...a stone that forms the base of a corner of a building, joining two walls*. Jesus Himself is described as the Chief Cornerstone (Isaiah 28:16), and He is called this because it is He that joins us together. Without Christ, we are nothing but separate walls, divided against one another. But with Christ, we are united together.

Believe it or not, we need one another. We need the believers around us to have their treasure chests wide open, because they carry facets of the Lord that we won't see any other way. He wants us to receive from one another. If we will honour the Lord and come into agreement with what He is building, we have no frame of reference for the glory of the blueprint that He is working off, and it will absolutely amaze us!



Soak Time

Do you have a new respect for the power of being unified? Where have you seen the painful reality of Luke 11:17 manifest – the destruction of a divided house?



Day Five: Bridging the Gaps

God's blueprint for His house will amaze us, but for us to see this house, we can be sure that we need to allow Jesus to bridge the gaps between us – if we don't, He'll have to wait for another generation who will, but He will have His way.

He's always been working towards this. Jesus was building this house when He sent Paul to preach salvation to the Gentiles. Prior to that, salvation had only been recognised by the Jewish people, but Jesus gave Paul a picture of the house He was building, and it was being built with one body of people.

Ephesians 2:12 – 17 (NLT) *In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.*

For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us...He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to 'god by means of his death on the cross and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

V15 (NKJV) *...so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace...*

Though both the Jews and Gentiles are still learning how to walk in the reality of this one new man, in Christ the gap has been bridged. No longer are Jews and Gentiles separate, but we are all one in Christ Jesus. And this is just the first gap Christ has bridged.

There are other gaps He has bridged in order to build this house, and we're coming into the understanding of these things. He's bridged the gap between male and female. He's also bridged the gap between slaves and free, which I



believe in this present day to be the abolition of hierarchical authority, 'under cover' and anything which sets one person above another. It also refers to financial hierarchy.

Galatians 3:28 (NLT) *There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

And just to confirm that His heart is to bridge every single gap between us, He says:

Ephesians 4:4 – 6 (NLT) *For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.*

If Christ is living through us all, why do we think we've got it all together on our own? There is much lip service paid to unity within the body of Christ. We think that because we don't hate believers from another church, that we're in unity with them. Really? Yet, we'll forge forward with our own plan and strategy for transforming our towns and cities, without even once coming together to pray and hear what is in the heart of the other believers (from other denominations or 'churches'). What would happen if our Army did this? If one corp or one unit came up with their own strategy and moved forward with it, without consulting with the other corps or units around them? It would be anarchy – and almost certain death! Yet the church has been functioning this way for generations.

And why don't we seek the Lord and His strategies together, and then walk them out in partnership? Because we think we've got more of the Spirit of God or that they won't understand our powerful revelation... we want to build our own kingdom... we want the glory of being the ones who did it!

It's time to be honest with ourselves and each other. When Christ is in each one of us, there really is no room for division of any kind.

Where there is a gap, Christ died to bridge it.

Soak Time



Being honest with yourself, are there any gaps Christ has bridged, yet you've resisted them? Why?



WEEK FOUR

Day One: No Spot or Wrinkle

We've been talking about the singular temple that God is building. And His singular temple is also described as His Bride (Rev 21) – His glorious Bride, without spot or wrinkle.

How do we become the Bride without spot or wrinkle? I believe it has everything to do with our becoming one as the body of Christ. Because it's only when we walk in purity of love that we can come together in oneness as His singular house. Division is an ugly spot. It shows us that we're not fully healed and therefore not fully walking in love, because love comes out of a pure heart. Love is not divided against itself.

We can only love through His healing, purifying grace. When we allow Him to have His way and to heal us, all of the wounds in our hearts which keep us in competition and keep us divided will be gone, we will come together as His singular house, and the world will see His glory through His spotless Bride.

Ephesians 5:27 (AMP) *That He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing [that she might be holy and faultless].*

This is Christ's assignment and He's not going to stop until He sees it completed, because it is in the glory of His spotless Bride that the world will come to know Him. If there is any spot or wrinkle on the body of Christ in the eyes of the world, it is certainly this - the hypocrisy of our division. Because they know, just as we do in our hearts, that we are called to love. And division is not a fruit of love or the Kingdom of God.

God is building His temple. When He lives in each of our hearts, He lives in the singular house He is building – THE temple for the Lord. We are called living stones, and He is placing us side by side and fitting us together perfectly in love, to build His house. He lives in this united, side by side, temple of one stone laid carefully beside the next. Not in multiple houses, not in denominational houses. But in His house! That's where His Spirit and anointing lies.



Just as the Bride's gown is intact and whole, the temple is singular. This is the ONLY house He's building, so if we're trying to build a house on our own, we can be sure it's not His house! If we're part of a denomination which has its own blueprint, separate to the rest of the body, how are we going to ever build something which fits together? If we're trying to fit the stones where we think they go instead of where He says they go, it's not His house! If we're trying to build a wall that doesn't connect with the body outside of our denomination, it's not His house! His blueprints never fail and they always fit together perfectly, in oneness and in love.

His house will forevermore be one.

Soak Time

Are you trying to build a wall, or be built into His singular temple? Do you belong to a denomination which is trying to build a wall rather than being built into His singular temple?



Day Two: The End of the Hostility

Most believers realise that we can't do anything of eternal worth without Jesus Christ. Yet we often think we can do things without the rest of His body, forgetting that His body is Christ's expression on this earth.

Ephesians 1:23 (TPT) *And now we, his church, are his body on the earth.*

This is how Jesus has chosen to represent Himself on earth. To say we don't need His body is almost like saying we don't need Him. So if we need His body, wouldn't it make sense that we are built into this temple together? He is not and cannot build a temple that is anything other than singular, therefore it is impossible for us to be part of His temple without also being part of each other.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NLT) *Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?*

Ephesians 2:16 (MSG) *Christ brought us together through his death on the cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility...*

As we saw last week, Jesus died to end the division between us. Paul couldn't be any clearer – we're not to be divided! And if you add that to what Jesus prayed in John 17 before going to the cross, and all the other scriptures in the Bible about unity and oneness, we have to come to the conclusion that it's not that God didn't make it obvious... it's not that we just missed it. But that we as a body chose to distinctly disobey the word of God in this area of oneness. We've divided up the body, nullified our power by doing so, and erected a model which is direct opposition to the word of God. And now we think it's impossible to change it, because we've never seen it done differently, we don't know where to start, and possibly also deep down, we really do like our spotlights, our buildings, people 'coming under our vision and theology', and our paid positions funded by those who do.

Yet all things are possible to him who believes.

All it takes is for His body to embrace God's heart for the singular temple as more important than any other blueprints. The house that has been erected by man and not by God will come down, and we'll have to lay down our prestige, hierarchical positions, titles and possibly even our financial 'security' so that



His body can come together as one, and the dream of God's heart can come to pass. It may not be comfortable, but it will be so worth it! Yes, there'll be a battle of the flesh the church is going to have to walk through for Holy Spirit to resolve this, but He's already started the process. And those who will see it for what it is, repent and come out of division and into oneness and the fullness of the Kingdom will thrive. That's where His glory will rest.

It's a big transition time, and He's asking us to be obedient to His Word and understand His heart. He wants His family back together again. He wants His singular temple to stand strong and be a witness to the world. To those who love the One who died to save us, His heart for a singular house is our delight.

Soak Time

The word says that 'the Cross got us to embrace'. Do you feel a though you embrace the body of Christ outside of your 'congregation' or 'denomination' or even group of friends? Ask Holy Spirit why, even though He died on the cross, His body is not fully embracing? Write down what He tells you:



Day Three: God Birthed a Family

The House God is Building has many facets. We've spent more than the last week looking at the fact that it is a singular house. And we've also seen that it is built by Love, He is building it, and that we are His house. Yet, there's still so much more revelation to explore which God has given us through His Word about what His House of Love really is. Today, we are going to begin with the next key: The House He's building is a family.

It's a Family

God is a Father. And as a Father, when He created the world, it was not an institution that He desired, but a family. Of all the ways He could have described Himself, He didn't call Himself 'God the CEO', or 'God the Senior Pastor'. He called Himself 'God the Father'. Our Father. He wasn't interested in building a great big mega-church, climbing ladders of manmade success, or opening multiple outlets across the world in His name. He could have created the most incredibly successful organisation, business or institution in the entire world, just by decreeing it. But that's not where His focus was. His focus was on people, His children. His focus was family.

He didn't want an institution. He wanted a family.

He didn't want to be a CEO. He wanted to be a Father.

Ephesians 2:19 – 22 (NLT) ...you are members of God's family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

God doesn't have an institutional bone in his body or thought in His mind! When Paul got saved, Holy Spirit just told him to "Go!" He didn't tell him to start an institution or a program and replicate what Holy Spirit was doing in various locations. Paul wasn't thinking about how to repeat what God was doing in other places. He was strategic, for sure. But He knew the best strategy was to keep pressing into Holy Spirit, follow Him wherever He went and whatever new thing He was doing, get his blueprints from heaven, obey them, and leave the rest up to God. Paul knew He wasn't the builder, but that God was.



When God started giving revelation to a united remnant of His people in our geographic location, Holy Spirit started directing gatherings which drew the body of Christ together from many towns, cities and even states. There was obvious fruit and anointing on what God was doing. And my immediate thought as a woman with a business degree and mentality was that God was birthing a ministry and we needed to register it and put all of the processes in place for it to function as a ministry.

But when we sought Holy Spirit about it, He clearly said to one of my dear friends: "Don't form it."

We couldn't understand why. I felt a little bit frustrated, to tell you the truth. I didn't understand with my existing mental framework how to move forward without registering a trading name, designing and logo and putting up a website. But what I didn't realise at the time what was God was about to teach us about His heart for family...

Soak Time

What do you understand about the difference between institution and family?
What aspects of institution do you experience in the church? What aspects of family do you experience in the church?



Day Four: Moving With God's New Thing

Throughout the history of the church, as revelation has come to the body of Christ, and God has moved, man has tried to capture and replicate it. He's put a name to it, put it in an institution and created a program or a denomination out of it. Yet while man has still been busy putting that together, God has already been off doing the new thing... to be captured by the next institution. And so the cycle has continued. The old thing God was doing, which still felt like a new thing to man, has always been put into a structure to try to keep it alive. Yet the very act of doing that has usually brought death. That's why we have thousands of denominations, and many of them were birthed on some truly anointed and amazing moves of God. Yet they are now skeletons with very little of the Presence of God, in comparison to what God was doing at their conception.

Still, the church has had this mindset that we have to institutionalise everything or turn it into a program. I'm not sure why that is? Perhaps it is because then we can gauge, or the world can know, 'who' was responsible for the growth? Do we want recognition? Perhaps it's because we find it easier than pressing into God's heart and leaving our comfort zones to follow where His Spirit wants to go? Or perhaps we are just following the way the world does it because we've never stopped and asked if that's how God wants it?

One thing is for sure. When institution came into the body of Christ, we lost far more than we gained.

Institution brought position, whereas beforehand there was only function. Institution bought hierarchy, as the institutions of the church took their cue from the institutions of the world and built something that looked just like it. We forgot that our blueprints are supposed to come from heaven, not from the world. Hierarchy bought a ladder to climb – a ministry ladder instead of a corporate one - and a spotlight to gain. It bought titles to promote and live up to. It brought kingdoms to build in the name of the institution, in the race for success.

But the worst thing that happened when institution came was that we lost true, genuine family. We lost the focus on people and deep, intimate connectedness. We lost touch with His heart. We exchanged family for



institution, thinking we were progressing. But we were losing an inheritance, exchanging our birthright for a bowl of stew.

When institution came in, we lost the apostolic fathers and mothers. Where are the apostles? How many believers in the body of Christ even know what an apostle is or how to recognise one? Do we understand their calling and function? Apostles are never about position. They know they are the foundation... laying down their lives to lift up others. They, along with the prophets, are the foundation of the church, and they are called to father and mother the body in an environment of intimacy, love and connectedness.

When we lost the apostolic fathers and mothers, we lost the ones who could see inside of the treasure chests embedded within each person (Col 1:26 – 27 TPT), and prophetically declare and unlock what was hidden within. Consequently, we have generations of people filled with the fullness of the Trinity, and yet they are hidden and snared in houses of bondage (Is 42:22 NKJV).

No loving father or mother thinks themselves more valuable than their children. They lay down their lives for their children. They sacrifice for their children. There may be some parents who have a hierarchical perspective, dominating their families, but that is a legalistic, religious spirit. A truly loving parent will do anything so that their child can live their full potential. This is what we lost.

Also, no loving parent puts one child on a pedestal while hiding the other. Every parent wants to see the true potential fulfilled in each of their children, not simply in a 'special' one here or there. Apostolic Fathers and Mothers see the treasure in all and raise them up to shine. Institution raises up only a few to shine, and hides the rest (because there's no other option where hierarchy exists – someone has to be at the top).

Institution kills the move of God and limits the people of God.

When God showed us these things, we realised why He was directing us not to form anything institutionally. He showed us how to come into heart connectedness with Him and each other, hear from heaven, simply obey Holy Spirit, and leave the rest to Him.



All of the fears and questions we had about how we could possibly move forward without registering a ministry were answered by Holy Spirit, and He showed us how to function.

That is why One Heart is a message, not a ministry. It is part of His heart. We are simply members of His family – one with Him and one with each other.

Is this how He is directing everyone? Not to form it? You'll have to ask Him! He's shown us it's possible to function without institution, but I do believe this: Institution is a spirit and a mindset of functionality, more than it is an organisation. I believe people who are not members of any organisation can still be institutional. That is, they care more about achievement, to do lists and programs etc... than people. They are out of touch with the freshness of the Spirit and His priority for family.

Is it also possible for organisations to not be institutional? I personally haven't seen much in the way of evidence of this, though that is not to say it's not possible. However, the very nature of institution will always draw out the institutional nature of people if it is within them. It's probably like sending an ex-drunk into a bottle shop – he might not start drinking again, but it's probably just not a great idea. If there's any leaning in the heart of the people towards control, hierarchy, containing and replicating the move of God, or kingdom building (their own), institution will bring it out in them.

Will God ever direct us to register an institution? I don't know. Sometimes there's more to the point than meets the eye. Just think about this... Government can control institutions. But it cannot identify nor control the Ekklesia. He has certainly led us to build registered businesses through which we minister in the marketplace to those around us and generate finance for the Kingdom of God. Yet He has directed us NOT to register a ministry. Perhaps the lesson here is not to assume He wants it done a certain way, and to ask Him. To throw down our perspectives of what it should or has to look like, and let Him show us, since He is the Master Builder. So often we just do things because that's what we see others do, and we don't think there could be any other way of accomplishing the vision in our hearts. But the Lord has many ways to get something done, and He simply wants us to let Him decide which way it's going to be, and for us to obey Him without any pre-conceived ideas of our own.



However the Lord leads, He will never lead us to achieve anything without the anointing of genuine apostles and prophets, who have a Fathering and Mothering heart and are raising up spiritual sons and daughters who will then in turn raise up more sons and daughters. And He will never lead us into hierarchy. Anything He builds will always be Kingdom. As soon as the 'chain' of not following the freshness of Holy Spirit and raising up sons and daughters is broken, there will be institution again and loss of His Presence.

I believe there's a lot of revelation to be given in this area... much to seek the Lord about regarding HOW it is possible. But if He says it is possible, it is. And if we ask Him, He'll show us.

Soak Time

Ask the Lord to show you His blueprint for family in the body of Christ. What do you see and hear?



Day Five: Regaining Our Inheritance

The good news, is that the church is starting to awaken to our inheritance of family, and to move back towards it. John Alley articulates this very well, and when you read what he writes, I believe you'll have the same 'Aha!' moment as I had when I first read it. For this quote succinctly describes what is meant by being 'institutional':

"The body of Christ is changing from being institutional, and denominational and organisation, and it is becoming relational. It is changing from being centered around formal organised activities to becoming centered around relationships and the heart. The Church is becoming like Christ.

This was a great revelation to me when I first read it, in June 2015. And then I realised that as I am the Ekklesia (and so are you), the only way that the church can change from being institutional to being relational, is if we each change from being institutional to being relational. I inserted my name into John Alley's quote, and this is what I wrote in my journal:

Ainsley is changing from being institutional and denominational and organisational, and she is becoming relational. She is changing from being centered around formal organised activities to becoming centered around relationships and the heart. People are her priority. Ainsley is becoming like Christ.

I realised that we have denominations because people are denominational! It's only as individuals become like Christ – relational, with their lives flowing around relationships rather than around activities and tasks – that the church can change.

WE – PEOPLE – ARE THE CHURCH! Therefore WE – PEOPLE – MUST CHANGE!

This whole shift cannot happen until we change. WE are the new wineskin – the 'container' of the Holy Spirit. He is taking us from DO to BE. He is building something less tangible but far more real.

Prior to this revelation, I was very much driven by achievement and my daily to do list. If someone dared to interrupt my plan for the day by calling in unannounced or phoning me when we hadn't scheduled a time to speak, I'd be very frustrated. And stop for someone when I was down the street



shopping?!?!?! They'd be lucky if I even saw them, because I was like a woman on a mission, with a one track mind. But after this moment, I knew that a Divine shift had to take place in my heart:

From External to Internal

From Actions to Hearts

From Servanthood to Sonship

For the church to change, we must first change. But if we are willing, we will see our inheritance restored.

Soak Time

Institution is more concerned with formal organised activities, achievement, programs and tasks. Family is more concerned with relationships, intimacy, connectedness and the heart. Have you leaned more towards institution or family?

If you've been more institutional than relational, are you now ready to repent from this, choose to be part of restoring our lost inheritance back to the body of Christ? If so, put your name into the following quote and declare it over yourself today:

_____ *is changing from being institutional and denominational and organisational, and she is becoming relational. She/he is changing from being centered around formal organised activities to becoming centered around relationships and the heart. People are her/his priority. _____ is becoming like Christ.*



WEEK FIVE

Day One: Built on His Foundation

For the past five weeks, we have been looking at God's House of Love, and how we can identify it. We've discovered that it is built by Love, He is building it, We are His house, It's a Singular House, and last week we looked at how His House is also a family.

I believe that we as a body are regaining our inheritance of family, and of the house that God has designed and planned for us to be. It's the most exciting times imaginable as God reveals His house – to the church as well as the world! Many in the church have not yet identified what He has been building, but they soon will. It may feel and look a little 'messy' as God demolishes the manmade structures and reveals His House of love. He is going to have to do some renovations and house cleaning. Many will not understand. Many will not like it. But the lovers of His heart... the 'I Said Yes!' ones will be delighted to see Him doing what He has been whispering in the secret place. It's time. So we need to know what He's building, and make sure that we align with His House, not man's.

So here's the next key. And it's a big key to help us to discern what's of God and what's of man. And that is this:

It's a Five-fold House

Or we could say, 'It's an Apostolic & Prophetic House', because if there's one thing God makes clear through Ephesians 2:20, it is that His house is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Let's look again at these scriptures:

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!



If the house God is building is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets (and yes there are definitely still apostles and prophets today), then if we are building on any other foundation, it's not God's house. Full stop.

At this point, we need to stop and address something. We must stop being either afraid of, or complacent with the word 'apostle'. Yes, as body we've been starting to learn what a prophet is and that God still appoints prophets on the earth. But the body has been slow to realise that in fact God still appoints apostles on the earth, too. And even if we know there's apostles out there, we don't tend to know how to recognise them. Tomorrow, we'll look at what apostles really are, and how we can recognise them.

Soak Time

What do you understand the function and role of an apostle to be?



Day Two: The Heart of an Apostle

To tell you the truth, I was afraid of the word 'apostle'. I'd grown up in a legalistic denomination in which I'd seen the counterfeit all my life – titles of 'apostle' given to men by men, and I hated it. So it took some serious convincing from Holy Spirit for me to even want to know what a true apostle was. And when He taught me, it was by observing someone stepping into the calling of apostle without they themselves even knowing who they were. He opened up the Word to me about who an apostle is and what they are called to, and I soon realised what was happening as my friend started to function in this anointing.

I've heard it explained by pastors that apostles are those who plant churches... I've been told that because the pastor may have started a church, they have an 'apostolic anointing'. Really? Let's be truthful... anyone can start a church. Not everyone is called by God to do so. And our concept of what 'planting a church' is again is questionable – how we can plant multiples of what only exists in singular form? We also need to realise that there is a huge difference between an 'apostolic anointing' and the calling of an apostle. Apostles don't 'start churches'. They bring the church to life! They carry an anointing of life which brings hearts to life, and as the embers of those hearts are fanned into flames, they become like spot fires which grow and catch and bring life to others. And the church as a whole grows. Apostles aren't about starting or expanding denominations – they breathe flourishing life into the whole church!

Apostles are the master builders of the church, receiving blueprints from heaven to know how to advance the Kingdom of God on this earth. They see the big picture all the time – their vision is always at the level of Kingdom, never congregation; corporate, not individual. In fact, if someone believes they are an apostle because they 'planted a church' (an impossible thing to do in the Kingdom anyway), that simply shows that they are not an apostle because apostles don't live at that level of perspective. Vision is their lifeblood and they are always moving forward. They know, by grace, how things are supposed to fit together and how people are to function together. They know what goes where and who goes where, though they never force any of that to happen, but prophetically declare it until God brings it to pass. They walk with ease in Divine connections as God brings forth connections and relationships for the advancement of the Kingdom.



As we already looked at last week, apostles are the mothers and fathers of the church... they love with purity of heart and see the treasure hidden inside the people of the body of Christ and call it forth. They are treasure chest openers, and they prophetically declare calling and destiny over the people God has Divinely connected them to.

Apostles are first sons (this includes women), and then they raise up sons. They are utterly submitted in every area of life... they are one with the King. They have no desire for titles or status, in fact they are repulsed by such things. They understand that true leadership is to lay down one's life for those they are called to. They understand that there is no hierarchy in the Kingdom of God and if anything, they are lower because they lay down their lives to be the foundation. They die every day so that others may live.

They are proven as financial distributors... not 'trustworthy' as in they won't steal it (though they won't). But trustworthy as in, they receive the big picture blueprints from heaven and see the vision God is birthing globally, nationally and locally (in that order). They know what needs to go where, and they distribute finances according to the explicit instruction of Holy Spirit, even to their personal hurt. In other words, no matter what it costs them personally, because they have no sense of their finances being separate from the Lord's. He doesn't just get a tenth – the whole lot is His.

They go through an incredible challenging preparation... if the army is going through basic soldier training, the apostles are going through SAS training. They are refined beyond what often feels possible to them, but they come out as gold. They can be trusted to choose the difficult things of the Kingdom of God, and they are immovable, unshakeable and unoffendable as a foundation for His house.

Apostles carry a displacement anointing – a transformation anointing. They are called to dismantle, uproot and destroy the demonic structures, and to plant and build up the Kingdom of God. Signs, wonders and miracles are an apostolic anointing, and part of the reason the church is so devoid of these things is that we've ousted the apostles. The reason there is chaos and division in the body of Christ, is because the apostles have not been in the position. Neither have the prophets. We'll look more at the Divine calling and function of prophets tomorrow.



So as you can see, just calling someone who 'plants churches' an apostle is a gross error. Apostles (and in fact all people) are appointed by God, not by man. Let's make this clear: A pastor is NOT an apostle. And the sooner we understand this, the sooner the church will come into alignment.

Soak Time

Would you describe apostles any differently, now that you have read this? If so, how would you describe them? If you still don't understand, ask the Lord to reveal this to you.

Do you personally know anyone you believe is called as an apostle? How have you recognised this in them?



Day Three: The Heart of a Prophet

We probably have a bit more of an understanding of prophets, as we are more likely to have seen them functioning. However, there is still an uncovering of true prophets happening, as many have walked in a prophetic anointing and called it the office of the prophet, yet these are two different things. And many prophets have still been filtering what they receive from the Lord through the perspective of their own fleshly understanding. The body needs to discern this. We truly have seen very few prophets, those who will speak only the words of the Lord, nothing more and nothing less, unmoved by the fear of man or their own flesh.

The true prophets are like Ezekiel, standing there overlooking a valley of dry bones, but asking God what He sees and instead declaring that. They live in the reality of prophetic vision, usually many years ahead of manifestation. They are unbelievably patient, precise and obedient. Their mouths are utterly yielded to Him, and they speak only what He says. True prophets don't bring a mix of flesh and spirit, but hear the spirit and speak the spirit, regardless of the intimidation that may come against them, and the circumstances surrounding them. They know they are likely to stir up the demonic kingdom and they are unafraid of that.

They declare the gold in people, and awaken anointings, mantles and dreams hidden in people's hearts yet placed there by God. They are powerful in word, action and deed. Often, they are called to prophetic actions, which are declarations of God's intentions for the future... and many times these actions make little sense to others. They are willing to endure ridicule and shame, while they live in the prophetic realm, and the gap between seeing something in the spirit and the timeframe where it manifests in the natural.

True prophets never function independently or individually, but they know they are designed to function in conjunction with apostles and you will find them doing that. In fact, I believe a prophet and an apostle are always assigned to walk together, in a covenanted walk. It's not that any apostle will do – prophets seek the Lord for the apostle they are called to walk with and vice versa. Prophets and apostles are designed to function together in oneness, and when they do, it's powerful beyond description! They receive from heaven, download blueprints, confirm leading, walk side-by-side and advance the Kingdom for the sake of the people.



There is no true Kingdom without the foundation of the apostle and prophet.

Seriously. God gave this pattern for some very good reasons. The most important being oneness. His temple was never meant to be a one man show! Consider Ephesians 2:20 again. You can read what it said. Now, what DIDN'T it say? It didn't say that God's temple is being built on the foundation of the apostles OR the foundation of the prophets. That is, no single person, anointing or function can be the foundation of the House God's building. This scripture makes it clear – oneness is the foundation. The apostle and prophet functioning together in oneness with Christ Jesus is the foundation of the House He's building.

It also didn't say that the apostle was higher than the prophet or that the prophet is higher than the apostle. In fact, the apostle and prophet were described as the foundation – if anything, 'under' the rest of the building. That is because the apostolic and prophetic anointings were given as a gift to the church, and part of that anointing is to lay down their lives for the people.

And this brings us to the really big problem that we have going on in the body of Christ right now. Congregations (who also see themselves as independent 'churches'), led by a single pastor. Hierarchy.

This is not the pattern God gave us.

Tomorrow we'll look at what's wrong with this structure and why God gave us a better way.



What do you think might be the problem with a pastor-led congregation, where there is hierarchy and the pastor is at the top? If you don't know, ask Holy Spirit. You might be surprised at what He tells you when you are open to it.



Day Four: Problems in the House

So if the pastor-led, hierarchical church is not God's pattern, what is? And if it's not the pattern, why is that all we see?

It's not that pastors aren't important, because they most certainly are. Pastors carry an anointing given by God that is immeasurably needed in the church. They are the arms of God, loving the people, bringing comfort, giving time, energy and care.

Pastors make the church feel loved.

Pastors walk hand in hand with people through the challenges and the celebrations of life. To see a true pastoral anointing in operation is a privilege beyond measure. To be pastored by someone who carries a true pastoral anointing is one of the most special and comforting experiences one can encounter.

Pastors are necessary. They are important. They are no less important than an apostle or a prophet. But God makes it clear. They are NOT the foundation. The foundation has to be built on the big picture... the prophetic and apostolic picture. We have to know where God is going, and that is not what the pastoral anointing is designed to do.

We didn't get the pastor-led, hierarchical church structure from heaven. We actually got it from Constantine, a Roman emperor who apparently 'converted' to Christianity in 312AD, but wanted to know how to avoid a split in his kingdom, where about half of his people were Christians and half were pagans. So he offered the Christians freedom from the persecution they had been experiencing if they would make a few concessions. And he basically brought the pagans and the Christians together by merging together their customs, beliefs, cultures and structures. As many people may already know, Easter was one of these merged events. Constantine changed the Hebraic celebration of Christ's death and resurrection at Passover, to Easter (which some believe was formerly a pagan festival).

He brought in the idea of services, and employed a single person to bring a message and oversee the 'congregation'. Prior to that, all bought a psalm, a word, a song (Col 3:16) as they gathered together in homes, fellowshiping and breaking bread with one another. The treasure within the hearts of each



of the believers was shared as a gift to one another as they came together and had everything in common (Acts 2:42 – 47). There was no hierarchy – they respected and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and the apostles laid down their lives for the people and empowered the Holy Spirit to be released in each one of them. Each believer ministered in the marketplace and knew they were a minister – they all did the work of the ministry. That was the model prior to Constantine's directives.

After that began division between 'laypeople' and 'clergy', as everyone who had previously been free to share their treasure for the benefit of the body, sat there 'hidden and snared in houses of bondage' (Isa 42:22), listening to the 'pastor' instead of being released to build up the body and to minister to the people around them. Hierarchy also began, with the pastor being the top rung of the ladder (placing a roof on the church) with everyone else under their 'covering' instead of side by side with the people.

And we lost the combined anointings of Jesus. Instead of the apostle and prophet foundation, upon which all of the other anointings were built upon collectively, we came back to a single pastoral anointing. And in fact, we very seldom have we seen that true anointing functioning either, because there are actually very few true pastors in the church. We have people who have been given the title of pastor by man, and we have people functioning with other anointings who have stepped into the role of the pastor, because that often appears to be the only way to fulfil the call to ministry in their hearts. It also often appears to be the only way to be paid to do it. Therefore the pastoral role is often treated no differently than a management position, an employment role, a ladder to climb and a career to build. If you can get accepted into Bible college and pass, you can be a pastor – there's no reference to be appointed by God in that process!

John 10:12 (MSG) A hired man is not a real Shepherd...

Is it possible to have someone hired as a pastor, who is not actually a pastor? Absolutely! We have teachers, administrators even, who are in the role of a pastor, yet they are not called as pastors, nor are they functioning in the true anointing of pastor.

And even if they were, a singular pastoral anointing is not all that is needed to build the Kingdom of God. We need the full five fold anointings of Jesus for the church to grow, laid down in the order given to us by God. In any place that we



don't do that, we're missing the aspect of Christ we need. However, our God is the master restorer and He is busy at work restoring His church to the temple that He decreed in the beginning.

Soak Time

Can you see why our deviation from the temple designed by God has caused major problems in the house? What is Holy Spirit showing you?



Day Five: Restoring the House

The Lord is revealing His blueprint for the temple not so that we can focus on the problems, but so that we can focus on His Divine solution – to build according to His plan. He needs us to take this seriously because it is serious. As I shared earlier in this devotional, I never realised just how much so until one day I read Isaiah 42:22 and immediately heard His Holy Spirit whisper telling me: ‘This is the condition of the established church’:

Isaiah 42:22 (AMP) *But this is a people robbed and plundered; they are all of them snared in holes and hidden in houses of bondage. They have become a prey, with no one to deliver them, a spoil, with no one to say, Restore them!*

I cried when I read this and realised how true His words are! Indeed the most profound treasure in the world is within God’s people – treasure chests of glory, Christ in us. And yet His people are being hidden and snared in houses of bondage – places where the structure does not allow the treasure chests to open up and the treasure to come out. Structures which shout, ‘Come in here, under my vision’. Structures where the roof is firmly on and if someone dares to follow the vision in their heart revealed to them by Holy Spirit, they risk being labelled as rebellious and be rejected. Places where a hypocritical message of freedom and obedience is preached, yet in reality is not allowed. Houses of hierarchy, spotlights and ladder climbing.

We’ve been taught that someone is charge – the man or woman at the top of the ladder, the ‘Senior Pastor’. And we ought not think we can do anything outside of the ‘covering’ of that person who in all respects and purposes, we are expected to treat like God because we obey them before we obey God Himself.

Why have we as a body allowed ourselves to come to this place, which is so far removed from what was given to us by Holy Spirit? We’ve accepted a blueprint imposed upon the church by man, and turned God’s blueprint upside down. Instead of building from an unshakeable apostolic and prophetic foundation of oneness, we’ve turned everything upside down, created hierarchy and put a roof on it. We have accepted a hierarchical house concept with a singular leader ‘pastor’ because we’ve not been taught nor have we known how to live in oneness and empower the treasure in every person. We’ve been happy to follow the pattern of the world and its structure of hierarchy... we know how



to climb ladders, so it keeps us in our comfort zone. We still think someone must be in charge.

When will we understand that someone IS in charge? His Name is Holy Spirit.

And we are all created with the innate ability to hear and know His voice. His function and pattern is that the apostles and prophets are the foundation because they were designed with an anointing that He can build upon, and because if anyone in the church has crucified their flesh, it's the true apostles and prophets. We don't need to be led by someone's flesh... we need the pure word of the Lord. Yet we have ousted and made no room for the apostles and prophets. In fact, apostles and prophets (particularly apostles) have been treated as though they no longer exist... that God no longer calls and equips apostles. They are currently unrecognised, dishonoured, and given no place in what has been known as the church. But that's OK. Because God is restoring His wineskin so that it can carry the wine of His glory without bursting, and those who recognise and are part of this wineskin (His House of Love), already know (at least in part) how it's supposed to look in their hearts, and they are sons who recognise God's pattern for the church and will honour and obey it.

When we build on a pastor-led, hierarchical structure, we are limited to a single anointing, we have no oneness in the congregation (so therefore we have no oneness in the family homes or in the bodies), most of the treasure chests stay shut and the Kingdom does not advance. Not to mention that the pastor is usually burnt out because he is trying to fulfil the callings of five anointings, instead of simply his own.

But when we build on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, they bring oneness to the temple. They empower the pastors, teachers and evangelists in their anointings, and they function together, receiving from the Lord and moving forward collectively. It is the most beautiful thing to see and experience! Yes indeed, Holy Spirit can truly be the one in charge!

He's bringing us to a place of understanding of how to function within this truth. I knew this was His blueprint, and I could see it functioning within the remnant God had birthed in my geographic location, but I had never seen it function like this in a traditional 'congregation'. So it blessed my heart when He Divinely connected me to a man who told me what Holy Spirit had led them to do in the gathering they were a part of. They had a team leadership and they knew that they had four of the five anointings within those called to the



congregation (and they were seeking God to draw the person/people with the fifth anointing). The 'leaders' were not those who were 'qualified' (by man's standards) to lead – they were simply 'leading' (or we could say obeying and 'go-ing') as led of the Lord. They functioned in oneness, knowing that Holy Spirit was actually the one in charge. When it came to making decisions, they would simply come together and pray until they all heard from Holy Spirit. If they couldn't arrive at a decision, they knew that God isn't divided against Himself, so they went away and kept praying until they could come back together and arrive on the same decision, as led of the Lord. How many congregations do that?!?!?

I believe that the reason we've looked to God through 'leaders' is because we fear that we cannot actually expect to connect with God directly in our hearts. It's easier to look to someone else than to press in and seek the Lord to hear clearly for ourselves.

And we think that the buck has to actually stop with one person because that's how our Western mindset has been conditioned to think. We are looking to someone who is in charge, outside of the Holy Spirit. We have no mindset of any other possibility – after all, that's how the world functions. Every business and organisation has someone at the top – why would the church be any different?!?!? I'll tell you why – the church is called to manifest the Kingdom of God, and the Kingdom is completely OPPOSITE to the world. We don't take our cues from the world – we are led by the Spirit. The world is meant to follow the church – the church is never to conform itself to the world.

The Holy Spirit is in charge of the church. No one else.



Soak Time

Have you been obeying God 'through' someone else... a 'leader'? How and why?

Do you expect that you can connect directly with Holy Spirit in your heart and simply obey Him? Why or why not?



WEEK SIX

Day One: Under my Vision

Over the past week, our focus has been on the fact that the temple God is building is a five fold house. It is intended to be governed together by those who hear and obey Holy Spirit (as it is HE who is in charge, not man), in a unified, non-hierarchical leadership built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. The Lord has established this Divine plan for some very good reasons, and if we won't follow His plan (as we haven't collectively), we won't experience the intended fruit of His plan (which we've not).

We have not had the freedom to obey God within the current church structure... we've instead been required to 'come in here under my vision'. There seems to be a gross misunderstanding about the role of a 'leader'. Ian Shelton puts it the most succinctly:

"A pastor that thinks you're here to support his vision is ungodly. My vision is to get you into your vision."

The current mindset of the church is that people are there to build the vision and kingdom that the pastor/leader sees. But that's not at all the case! The leader is there to speak to and unlock the vision inside of each of the people – their vision is the collective vision of the people to whom they have been called. What a difference to what we're seeing currently in the church! How many 'pastors' would still be there if the table was turned to this kingdom mentality – it's not about their vision, but it's about the vision of Christ, through the people? That is true leadership.

Let's understand leadership correctly. Leadership is not appointed by man – it is appointed by God. So that takes away the qualifications and pieces of paper from the institutions of the world in order to recognise them. If we can't look to these things to recognise leaders, what can we look to?

Quite simply... who actually leads? Who actually steps out into what Holy Spirit is speaking to their hearts and obeys Him? Who goes first, instead of waiting for someone else to do it?

One of the most profound Holy Spirit statements I have ever heard was shared with me by a dear apostolic friend of mine. The Lord said to him:



“There is no such thing as leaders. There are only those who lead.”

Need I say any more? If that doesn't define what true leadership is, and highlight where we've gone wrong, nothing will!

Divided vision is causing a divided church. 'My vision' or 'the vision of this church' is very often a covering for independent kingdom building. Yet individuals are not in charge of the Kingdom of God. Holy Spirit is. And if we will simply obey Him, and allow those around us to obey Him, He will build the temple. We are not seeing the purposes of God fulfilled as He wants them to, because we've been building our own temples, not His.

The biggest danger of divided vision, and 'coming in here under my vision' is because it renders the gifts in the body null and void. These gifts are placed in the hearts of man for the growth of all, and if we have a one-fold, hierarchical leadership, these gifts are never seen, known, or available for anyone else to benefit from.

Ephesians 4:15 (TPT) All our direction and ministries will flow from Christ and lead us deeper into him, the anointed Head of his body, the church. For his “body” has been formed in his image and is closely joined together and constantly connected as one. And every member has been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all; and as these gifts are imparted and operating effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect in love.

Let us decide that as for us, we will impart and operate in the divine gifts which have been given to us for the contribution of all. That we will receive our direction from Christ. And while we will have that direction confirmed by others around us, and we will be likely to walk in it in partnership with others, we will obey the head of the church. And when He says to go, we will go.



Soak Time

Do you believe that you have been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all? If not, why not? If so, what are they?

Have you been able to impart and operate in those gifts? Why or why not?

If you are currently recognised as a Pastor or 'leader', examine your heart around this. Ask Holy Spirit to show you, because we actually don't know what's going on in our own hearts without His enlightening:

Are you looking for other people to fulfil your vision, or are you looking to fulfil the vision in the hearts of the people?

Those who are looking for other people to fulfil their vision are either not called as true five-fold ministers, or are operating out of the world's defaults instead of those of the Kingdom of God. They could also be called, but not activated in the anointing for how to truly build the Kingdom by building the people, because they are not in relationship with a true apostle. All of these are possibilities, but only Holy Spirit knows which describes each person's heart. True five fold ministers are focussed on seeing the dream in other's hearts come alive. And when the dreams in the hearts of others comes alive, God's dream comes alive. God's purpose and dream for the world is fulfilled



through our dreams for the world (because He put them there). That's why the church is never about fulfilling the vision of the 'local church' (I term I don't even believe is possible). The vision of the 'local church' is to awaken and fulfil the dream of God in the hearts of His people.

The apostles and prophets are the foundation; the master builders. Their dream – the blueprint – is automatically fulfilled by lifting others into their place in the walls of His house. Many pastors want to be the capstone, 'come in here under my vision'... or we could say, 'come in here under my limitation'. They think leadership is hierarchical and sits on the A frame of the roof. True leadership is the foundation and the house of the Lord is built from foundation up.

If the roof is put on by man, we have limitation. If there is no apostolic and prophetic foundation, we crumble. Do we want the church that we have designed, or the church that HE has designed?

What alterations are you willing to make, in order to come into agreement with HIS design?

Day Two: Unwrapped Gifts



Yesterday, we looked at Ephesians and how *'all our direction and ministries will flow from Christ and lead us deeper into him' (not a 'leader')*, and how *'every member has been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all.'*

While we've considered the gifts that are within us, now let's consider the gifts that are within others – gifts the Lord intends to bring us growth. We need to understand something which is very, very important:

The five anointings functioning together are His gift to the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11 – 12 (TPT) *And he has appointed some with grace to be apostles, and some with grace to be prophets, and some with grace to be evangelists, and some with grace to be pastors, and some with grace to be teachers. And their calling is to nurture and prepare all the holy believers to do their own works of ministry, and as they do this they will enlarge and build up the body of Christ.*

Note that it didn't say the five fold were appointed in order to fulfil the work of the ministry, but rather to empower all the holy believers so that *they* can do the work of the ministry. So the five fold anointings have been given as a gift to the church, so that as these anointings function together, the believers can be nurtured, their treasure chests opened, and everyone participates in the work of the ministry and the building up of the body of Christ. No more spotlights and platforms, but instead an army of believers who are functioning as Christ on the earth. What a far more effective model than the one we have been using!

The Message translation brings this out beautifully:

Ephesians 4:11 – 12 (MSG) *The One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ.*

So did we get that? The five fold anointings of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher were given out by God as gifts. Which person, at their



birthday party, decides to open some gifts and walks away from the others, leaving them perpetually unopened? Yet that's what we've done as a body generation after generation.

Everything we needed in order to be mature and fully developed within and without... to be fully alive like Christ... is contained in those gifts. Yet we've been content to leave them unwrapped, and just pick up a few packages and open them. Or we convince ourselves we've opened all of the gifts because we have heard of some famous apostle or evangelist on the other side of the world and we figure the apostolic or evangelistic anointings are functioning in the church, but we've never seen the full release of them functioning in our world, where we live, with the body of Christ in our geographic location. A few 'super anointed ones' performing while the body looks on is not God's plan and that's why we're not seeing the body fully alive like Christ.

Occasionally we open the gift of the teacher and evangelist... but seldom the true prophet and almost never the gift of the apostle. Let's not leave His gifts unwrapped! They're for our benefit. They're for our growth! They're for our maturity!!! And if we cannot recognise these gifts, we most certainly are walking in immaturity.

He's never taken those gifts back. They're still there, waiting for us as a body to collectively open them. If we'll do that, we'll discover how amazingly powerful and beautiful the contents of these gifts are, and we'll see this promised maturity come to our hearts and to the body. Indeed, we can never be mature individually and collectively... we can never be fully alive in the life of Christ until we do.

Soak Time



Have you ever turned down natural gifts given to you and left them unopened? Do you think there are spiritual gifts God has given you individually and given us collectively as a church which you have left unopened? Ask Him what they are and how you can open them now that you know they're yours.



Day Three: First of All

The gifts of apostle, prophet, teacher, pastor and evangelist are each equally important to the body of Christ. However, they function correctly when they're in the right order. Not rank. Not importance. But order. And that pattern is clear.

1 Corinthians 12:28 (BSB) *And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, and those with gifts of healing, helping, administration, and various tongues.*

Excuse me for noting it, but the function of 'pastor' isn't even mentioned in this list. In fact, in the entire Bible, there are two – TWO – mentions of the word translated 'pastor' in the entire book! And yet somehow, we put pastors at the top of the ranks, leading 'churches' solo. Could this have been any more obviously against God's express blueprint?

God is making a point through this scripture. He commissions pastors, but they are not apostles, they are not prophets, they are not the foundation and they certainly aren't the roof. We must realise that the purpose for apostles and prophets being in place first, is so that all of the other anointings can function in the way He designed. A pastoral anointing functioning on an apostolic and prophetic foundation is something so profoundly beautiful and impacting, you have to experience it to believe it. Yet that same anointing will function in a greatly limited way outside of that foundation.

God designed for all of the anointings to function in the fullness of their mandates, and when each one does, the body matures. When we transitioned to a single-anointing, pastor-led church, we effectively left most of our gifts unopened. Could this be a good part of the reason for the perpetual infancy and immaturity of the church, and therefore why the commission to see the world saved has not yet been fulfilled? Of course it could!

But let's see this as the great news it is, for pastors, apostles, prophets, teachers and evangelists everywhere! What He is effectively saying is that we don't have to be anything other than what God has called us to be! We don't have to fit this man-made structure, which is keeping the Kingdom restrained.

Finally, pastors can be relieved of the burden of trying to fit the bill and fulfil all of the functions of the five-fold, and just get on with the job they've been



given of loving the people. Finally, space can be made for the apostles and prophets to live, and to bring oneness, vision, signs, wonders and family back to the church. And finally, the people who have been 'hidden and snared in houses of bondage' can be set free and we can all partake of what has been contained in their treasure chests all along!

Best of all, in this five fold house where the apostles and prophets are the foundation, THERE IS NO ROOF! There is no 'come in here under my vision', but there is life given to the vision God has placed in each person's heart. There is no hierarchy. There is no under cover. And there are no limitations to what Holy Spirit can do with a people who will function according to His blueprint!

Soak Time

If there was no roof and no limitation in your life, what do you feel you could do in the Kingdom of God?



Day Four: Cleaning House Financially

It's time to let Him clean house, church. Pastors (and in fact any anointing) whose identity is in their position, title, power, vision or money will not want to let go of what they have. And if anything other than God is first in their heart, they're sure not going to want to let go of the security of their pastor's wages. But let's be clear here. God is not doing a clean swap. He's not saying 'let's put apostles and prophets where the pastors have been. Let's pay them instead of the pastors'.

I can tell you what will happen when the apostles step into place. And might I add, many of the true five-fold that the Lord has been preparing. They will be tentmakers. Just as Paul didn't burden the churches and had his own business in order to ensure that he never did burden them, so too is God leading the apostles He's preparing today to the wisdom of business and entrepreneurship – tentmaking! In fact, what they are walking through in the journey of entrepreneurship is a big part of their training.

They are coming into position with Him as their financial source – not a church or congregation. They are actually coming into position not as consumers of the church's income, but as distributors of wealth. In this way, they can be 'true Shepherds', not 'hired men' (Jn 10:12). They are not coming to take a 'pastor's wage'. This is not a power struggle. This is an empowerment for every anointing to be who and what God has called them to be. A true apostle and indeed, a true five-fold leader is not motivated by money and doesn't see people as their source, but has learned to function financially in the abundance of the Kingdom of God, with Him as their absolute source. As such, they can never be found a 'hired man'.

God cleans house financially by dealing with our hearts. Can our hearts handle serving Him without a promise of financial provision outside of the abundance in the Word of God? Can our hearts handle laying down our titles, prestige and hierarchy to sit on a level playing field with the leaders He has appointed to work together and seek not our will but His will to be done?

When we can, we will be astounded at what Holy Spirit can do in HIS church. Let's give Him freedom to move.



Soak Time

Ask Holy Spirit to clean house in your heart as it pertains to finances and titles. What is He asking you to do?



Day Five: A Divine Symphony

The function of the church was never intended to be a solo performance, but a symphony in harmony together as the five fold anointings engage as one to bring the whole body to maturity.

God is very serious about this. Just look at what He says about these anointings functioning together:

Ephesians 4:13 – 14 (TPT) *These grace ministries will function until we all attain oneness into the faith, until we all experience the fullness of being one with the Son of God, and finally we become one perfect man with the full dimensions of spiritual maturity and fully developed in the abundance of Christ. And then our immaturity will end and we will not be easily shaken by trouble, nor led astray by novel teachings or by the false doctrines of deceivers who teach clever lies that sound like the truth – only to pull us into their “flock.” But instead we will remain strong and always sincere in our love as we express the truth.*

Again, it is about maturity. The anointings are designed to work together to bring us into maturity. And with our maturity comes our oneness. There is no way to maturity that does not bring us to a oneness of functionality in the five fold anointings and in the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:13 (NLT) *This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s son that we will be mature in the Lord.*

God is not going to give up on this and say, ‘Oh well, it’s taking too long, let’s come up with a different plan’. He’s designed His plan and decreed it and now it’s up to us to catch up. After all, He is God – we’re not. His plan is the one that will stand, until a generation gets it and walks in it. And then we’ll see His promises come to pass.

His promise of maturity is such a beautiful picture! He’s not about a hierarchical ladder with one ‘Senior Pastor’ on top! He’s given five incredible graces to the body in the form of the five fold anointings, and as we’ve already seen, they are His gifts to the body, which are intended to function and operate together. Yet we’ve thought they can work independently of one another.



The pastor was never designed to function in any other way than on the foundation of the apostle and prophet. The teacher was never intended to be an island unto himself. In fact, ministries and congregations were never designed to have a single, identifiable leader. Yes, God always gives vision to one, but this vision is to unlock the visions in the people, and God will send a five fold that He intends to function together in order to accomplish that unlocking. When the five fold anointings function together, they draw on one another and bring out the fullness that God intended them to. No leader can ever be more effective as the top run of the ladder, than they can in functioning as God designed – in a five fold team leadership of mutual honour.

I would challenge you to find a place in the Bible where five fold anointings actually functioned separately from one another. You won't find it. The scriptures show us that these combined anointings will be in operation UNTIL we all walk in oneness of faith and maturity as one perfect man. So in other words, it's still in operation today, as we've not yet walked in this description as a church – but we will, for that is the intended purpose! When we will allow the temple to be built by God Himself according to His specifications, with each of the five fold anointings in place and functioning together, we will find that the maturity will come. We will only walk in immaturity for as long as it takes for us to realise this and instead walk in the blueprint He has given us. His structure is far more effective than ours.

Soak Time

What does maturity mean to you? Ask Holy Spirit how He defines it.



WEEK SEVEN

Day One: A Holy House

We've spent the last two weeks looking at the fact that the temple is a five-fold house. I'm trusting that you deeply understand the absolute importance of this aspect of God's blueprint for His temple, and how His Life can only flow through a five-fold house. He gave us all of the five-fold gifts, because we need every single one of them. His temple is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.

This brings us to the next key in the house God is building. And that is simply, yet profoundly, that it is a holy house.

It is a Holy House

***Ezekiel 43:10 (NLT)** Son of man, describe to the people of Israel the temple I have shown you, so they will be ashamed of all their sins. Let them study its plan. And they will be ashamed of what they have done. Describe to them all the specifications of the temple – including its entrances and exits – and everything else about it. Tell them about its decrees and laws. Write down all these specifications and decrees as they watch so they will be sure to remember and follow them. And this is the basic law of the temple: Absolute holiness! The entire top of the mountain where the temple is built is holy. Yes, this is the basic law of the temple.*

Everything we have spent the last month or so looking at pertaining to the house God is building – His temple, not man's – is so that as we recognise what He is doing, we will also equally recognise what He is not doing.

This brings us to an important moment of decision. Ultimately, the temple is about absolute holiness! And when I asked Holy Spirit to give me a definition of holiness, He said something very profound. He said...

Holiness is Oneness

Wow, I was astounded at how simple it really is! All our lives, we've probably perceived holiness as some sort of perfection, which we sense is almost impossible to attain. Yet it's not about trying to attain something which is out of our reach; it's about walking in what is already ours. Holiness is simply



oneness with Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is alignment in every area with the Divine trinity. It's pretty simple, if it's not in their home (heaven), it shouldn't be in our home (our hearts).

But all this time, we've been trying to be holy, trying to be 'like' Christ, and failing miserably. When I was searching for the Hebraic word for holiness, this is what I read:

"The way to holiness, in other words, was for Israelites, individually and collectively, to emulate God's attributes." Then it hit me - this is why it's never been attainable!

We've never been able to be 'like' Him, because we've not known that we're one with Him!

And if we happened to read it in the Word or hear someone else say it, we never really believed it was true! But how we need to see it is that instead of it being an unattainable attribute we can never possibly succeed at, we simply need to believe His word which says that we're already one with Him (1 Cor 6:17), and just live it.

Oneness is how we actually walk in holiness. Oneness is the basic law of the temple.

The amazing thing is, when His people actually do this... when we actually believe in our oneness with Christ and step into the truth of it, we may not 'act' completely 'holy' from day one, but we'll just keep being more and more aligned with His heart and His blueprints because we believe it to already be true. More and more times that we could choose to go our own way, think our own thoughts, do our own plans... we'll instead choose His. And the more oneness we walk in, the more holiness we'll walk in... and the more holiness we walk in, the less mis-aligned with His heart we'll be... and the more the temple will look like His blueprint.

And the more the church will be the powerful and awesome force that she has been designed to be in this earth. And at the end of the day, God's dream for this earth will come to pass.



Soak Time

Describe your understanding of holiness in your own words:

Does it feel possible or impossible for you to walk in it? Why?



Day Two: It Needs Every Stone

This Holy house is being built up moment-by-moment, day-by-day and most importantly, stone-by-stone. And we must certainly understand something very important to the building process, which brings us to our next key:

It Needs Every Stone

Just try to build a stone wall without enough stones! It's impossible! Holy Spirit is building His house stone by stone, but often His people don't realise how important we are to the building process. Because **we are the stones!**

1 Peter 2:4 – 5 (NKJV) *Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

We are living stones, which are being built up by Holy Spirit into the spiritual House He has planned. We already know that gone must be our mindset of His church as being buildings, a place that we go to meet or connect. This is so far from God's blueprint, it's not even remotely funny. Yet His people continue to miss the point and to talk about 'going to church' without realising how impossible such statements are and what they truly indicate about what we believe. If we truly think it's possible to 'go to church', we actually believe that church is the place or the building within which we meet. Yet that's not at all what God said!

God is not building structures. He is building people.

As we've looked at previously, His Ekklesia are people who function as change agents everywhere they go – in the marketplace, in the country, in the city and in homes. The Ekklesia changed the culture and the institutions of every place that they went.

As the Ekklesia, we go into the areas in which we've been called, and disciple people into how the Kingdom of God (not a denomination) functions, to see transformation come to our communities and world. The Ekklesia – the true church – functions everywhere. In the marketplace... 'behind enemy lines', so to speak. It is a living organism. It cannot be controlled or maintained. Many times, it cannot even be identified, as far as an institution goes.



While man may be frightened by this description because he cannot control it, man also cannot contain it.

It's not ours to build, it's His. And He is building it one living stone after the next. We've delayed the building firstly because we've not understood that He was building US, not actual brick and mortar buildings.

Secondly, even if we've known that it's us He is building, many of His people step back because of fear of not having something to give... of being rejected... not good enough to be chosen as a stone in what He is building.

Psalm 118:22 (TPT) The very stone the masons rejected as flawed, has turned out to be the most important capstone of the arch, holding up the very house of God.

If you're afraid of being rejected because of your 'imperfections' and 'flaws', just know this. Jesus is the cornerstone, and though He was perfect, man considered him flawed and rejected Him. He has paid the price of rejection so that we don't need to be rejected. He also knows what it is to be rejected. And He will never reject us.

We also need to remember that in the eyes of the Lord, *we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus* (2 Cor 5:21). He can't see us as anything other than 'in Him' if we're in Him. He couldn't see a flaw if He tried – He has removed our sins (misalignment with Him) *as far as the east is from the west and remembers them no more* (Isa 43:25). All that is left for Him to see is our oneness with Him. We are flawless in His eyes. He knows us *not after the flesh but after the spirit* (2 Cor 5:16), He knows what He has called us to do, and He builds us into His temple as though we're walking in all of that.

So it's not possible for Him to reject us, or for us to not 'make the cut' and get excluded from the build. The only possibility is for us to reject ourselves, or even to reject Him as builder... to assess our capabilities and qualifications ourselves, and take our lives into our own hands... or to build something ourselves which is of the flesh, instead of trusting Him to build us into His work.

Humility is always agreeing with what HE says, not what we think. If we won't walk in this type of submission, we leave a gap in the wall... a gap that the person beside us needs filled. We diminish the strength of the temple. After



all, a house will not stand if it has bricks missing here and there... the whole thing would tumble down.

I believe what happens when someone refuses to be built into the temple is that God cannot have a hole there or it compromises the whole house, so He has to give what was mandated to one person, to another who will do it (in addition to their own original calling).

When we abdicate our role, we put pressure on those who have truly said 'Yes!' And we live our lives, never knowing what we could and would have been and done.

Let's be the living stones He has created us to be, be submitted to His purposes and be willing to be placed where He desires to put us. Collectively, He lives through us to strengthen and grow His house. What a privilege to be purposed as part of it!

Soak Time

Ask the Lord to show you His plans for you as a living stone? Where does He want to place you? Beside whom does He want to build you?



Day Three: It Builds Each Other Up

So we've seen that a holy house is built of living stones who will come into oneness with Christ and His purpose for each of them. Every single one of us are needed in His house. It's not for some and not for others – each believer is an important living stone, who is vital to His blueprint. When we say yes to being built up into His temple, we also need to understand this key. The House God is building – the House of Love - builds each other up.

It Builds Each Other Up

Ephesians 4:15 - 16 (AMP) ...Enfolded in love, let us grow up in every way and in all things unto Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). For because of Him the whole body (the church, in all its various parts), closely joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied, when each part [with power adapted to its needs [is working properly [in all its functions], grows to full maturity, building itself up in love.

Twice, Holy Spirit has made a very important point:

Maturity IS love. When we love, we are mature.

That means, there is nothing higher in the Kingdom of God than love. And mature love is evidenced by one thing: Building itself up in love.

We are a single body – we have need of each other, in fact we cannot function without one another. However, more than that... when we hurt each other, we hurt ourselves. When we are content to be separated from one another and refuse to honour the treasure in one another, we are choosing to tear down what God has been building. We can't hurt each other without hurting ourselves.

Romans 12:4 – 6 (MSG) In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to too much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvellously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were



made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.

Building each other up in love is essentially honouring one another. We recognise that each living stone is inherently valuable, and filled with a treasure chest of glory (Col 1:26 – 27), which all of us have need of. When we build one another up, helping each other to open the treasure chests within us and walk in our destiny, we co-operate with Holy Spirit in building the temple up.

Honour can see the gold in someone else, even when our theology is different. Honour sees each person as a precious son or daughter of our Father. Honour wants the best for one another... doesn't compete with... doesn't put down.

And honour also recognises the value of those who have gone before us. Let's think about it... He has been building His House of Love since the beginning of the world. We are built into the structure alongside the living stones who have gone before us, and we must honour their obedience and sacrifice. Do you think we would be reading our own copy of the Bible if men like John Huss and William Tyndale hadn't taken their stand for truth... a stand which cost them their lives? (And if you don't know who these men are, find out. Men and women like these should be known to us and honoured by us).

Do you think we would be living in the freedom we are enjoying in our nation if the men and women during the world wars didn't defend us? Consider the pioneers who opened up our nation, or our family who have gone before us honouring the Lord, and bringing the level of generational blessing we walk in today (and if our family members haven't done that, we can be the ones to turn it all around for the family who comes after us, and be the Generation Breakers).

We owe it to those who have gone before us, including our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to honour their sacrifice enough to build each other up, rather than tear each other down.

"We are in a race. It's a race between what is and what could be. We are uniquely positioned with the richest inheritance of all time. It has been accumulating through several thousand years of humanity encountering God and God encountering humanity. The righteous dead are watching. They fill the heavenly stands, and have been given the name, "Cloud of Witnesses"



(Hebrews 12:1). They realize that in a relay race, each runner receives a prize according to how the last runner finishes. They invested in us for this final leg of the race, and are now waiting to see what we will do with what we've been given...we have been given the right to surpass the accomplishments of previous generations using creativity, through wisdom, to solve the issues facing us. Their ceiling is our floor. This is our time to run." Bill Johnson

1 Corinthians 11 (TPT) ...*For we live in a time when the purpose of all the ages past is now completing its goal within us.*

This is the most exciting of times! Surely we can lay aside our idea of how it's supposed to look, and who God has placed us beside, and our differences of theology, and simply love in a mature love which honours what is inside of one another and builds itself up? Each of us, side by side in His House of Love. No one stone better than another or in competition with another. Not willing to have a stone missing... anyone out of action... but to speak to the treasure inside of each and every one of us and love. We can't be built up together without touching... being enmeshed... being cemented together. One's strength builds up another's and in the end, we all are built up together into God's glorious blueprint.

And what's more, the world will finally see it – The House of Love... the dream of God and the most incredible thing the world has ever known.

And THEN the world will believe.

"When we add the supernatural power of the resurrected Christ to a people unified to His purpose and one another, nothing they purpose to do will be impossible for them." Bill Johnson

Indeed, nothing is impossible for us as a church. If we'll do it His way, we'll see everything He promised. And we will have played in our part in the dream of our precious Father, Saviour and Holy Spirit manifesting in this earth. Is there any greater privilege on the face of the planet?!?!

Soak Time



Ask the Lord to show you how He wants you to build up and be cemented with His body... His temple. How can you outwork this in your life?

How have you been tearing His temple down? It's time to come out of agreement with these things...



Day Four: It Grows Together

And here we have it, the final key. In many ways, we've just seen it... the House God is building builds each other up. But we also need to understand that it grows together. In other words, it's not just about being nice to one another, it's about journeying together. This is the mindset we must have. It's not about 'my' journey, it's about 'OUR' journey. We are cemented together in love, so how can we any longer walk alone?

It Grows Together

Ephesians 4:4 – 6 (MSG) *You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness.*

You can't escape the fact that with God's blueprint, victories are never accomplished alone... growth is never experienced independently... Nothing we can do – or not do – impacts only ourselves, but it impacts the entire body, not even just those we are fitted beside. We are part of a whole, and we grow together.

Romans 15:5 – 6 (TPT) *Now may the God of endurance and comfort grace you with unity among yourselves, which flows from your relationship with Jesus, the Anointed One. Then, with a unanimous rush of passion, you will with one voice glorify God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You will bring God glory when you accept and welcome one another as partners, just as the Anointed One has fully accepted you and received you as his partner.*

In the same way that Holy Spirit partners with us, we are to partner with one another. Partners... in other words, we do this together. We fulfil purpose together, we uncover mysteries together (Prov 25:2). We walk with one another. And no longer can we see it any other way.

Even those called to pioneer... we don't do it alone. Even if we feel that we have to go while no one else around us is called to the same thing, He brings us the encouragement, prayer, wisdom, prophetic words and support of other pioneers who understand the loneliness of the journey. We receive from one



another and He brings us through every challenge, hardship and what feels like insurmountable obstacle.

There have been times that the journey has felt so impossible and been so hard for me that I have been on the precipice of turning tail and running. At these junctures, I could never have taken another step, had God not given me a prophetic word or encouragement through someone that I was walking with. If I had refused to journey WITH others, I would never have received these vital pieces of life to my heart, and I can assure you I'd be missing in action... I could never have made it thus far. We grow together.

Ephesians 1:27 (TPT) ...keep living your lives in the reality of the Gospel of Christ, which reveals Him to others. Then when I come to see you, or hear good reports of you, I'll know that you stand united in one spirit and one passion – celebrating together as conquerors in the faith of the Gospel.

We can't do it alone. We shouldn't want to do it alone. Our lives are to be permeated with oneness. And if there is one scripture which shows us what this looks like, it is this:

Philippians 3:16 (TPT) And let us all advance together to reach this victory-prize, following one path with one passion.

Truly, may we all advance, and may we do it together. And in turn, celebrate together at the glory revealed in this world, when the dream of God's heart – His House of Love – is manifest.



'Let us all advance together'. What does this mean to you?



How does the Lord want you to practically walk this out?



Day Five: You Choose

So now that we understand, there's nothing left to do but to choose.

Will You Be Built into His House of Love?

The House of Love is truly nothing like what we've seen before. It's an entirely different blueprint to the one that the church has been building on for generations. Yet it's His blueprint and it contains His dream, and He is asking us all... will you be a part of it?

Luke 5:36 – 39 (TPT) Yet you say, 'The old ways are better,' and you refuse to even taste the new that I bring?

God is restoring us to His true wine. Yet we can read something like this devotional, be excited and see the possibilities... and still not know how to walk in it or be filled with fear about the changes it will require. We can stay comfortable drinking the old wine... but it's in following where the Holy Spirit leads that we leave stagnation behind and enter the wide-open, spacious life that He created us for.

Many will have recognised that they've been building their own kingdom, and letting go of something which we've given so much of our time, energy and focus to – with the best intentions of our heart – is very difficult to do. We may have many questions about how it can possibly work practically, what it will cost us and more. Yet all the Lord asks of us now, is to choose. He will do the leading... He will do the unfolding.

We had no idea what He was even trying to show us when we began our journey as a local remnant, but as we were submitted to Him, He led us to do things, then He showed us what He'd done through each act of obedience... what it was... what He called it, and how it functioned. We had to feel our way, following peace and being open to His Spirit, not limiting Him in any way. There's still a lot more journeying to go, but it begins by letting go of the kingdom we've already built for ourselves and our questions about how it



His House of Love could possibly work. Let's not reason ourselves out of the promises and gifts of God. Whatever He tells us to do is possible and will have great fruit attached.

Philippians 2:2 So I'm asking you, my friends, that you be joined together in total unity – with one heart, one passion, and united in one love. Walk together with one harmonious purpose and you will fill my heart with unbounded joy.

As we are collectively open to His blueprint and obedient to what He individually shows us, we'll see it forming and we'll understand how it can be. Let's bring joy to our Heavenly Father today, by choosing His blueprint and His dream.

Soak Time

The question is simple: Will you be built into His House of Love today?
