

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

BUILDING WITH GOD

RLJ-1622

CHARLES THORELL

OCTOBER 22, 2017

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

God is working on the earth according to a specific plan devised long before the creation took place. God has a specific plan for every human being that fits with His master plan. **Jeremiah 1:4-5; Ephesians 1:3-12**

What is the meaning of life? As far as God is concerned, it is to be the praise of His glory. But in order for that to happen, you must first accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. **1 John 4:7-15**

The baptism of the Holy Spirit follows salvation and it was so important that Jesus told His followers not to leave Jerusalem without it. He did not want them to go out and preach the gospel until they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit. **Acts 1:1-5, 8**

LIVING STONES

If you refuse the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you won't be able to progress to the next part of God's plan and that is to join His building program. Mankind builds based upon what is needed at the moment but God builds for eternity. Humanity looks at time but God has an eye for time without end. **1 Peter 2:1-5**

Growing old is a subjective way of looking at life. We often think of older people as a burden but you will never become useless in the Kingdom of God. As you reach retirement age, God is not impressed with your looks or the wealth you have amassed. You might have great business expertise, but God is certainly not going to be impressed if you became successful through lies and theft. He is more interested in your character quotient and ability to obey His commands. **John 14:15**

Let's say you are going to build a stone wall. Where do you get your building materials? Some stones might be found lying around, so where do you get more? The stones needed would come from a much larger source such as a mountain. Large pieces are broken off and cut into small pieces, which are then chiseled until they take the form desired by the builder.

This is precisely what God is doing with every Christian. Humanity is the mountain and God is selecting stone pieces for His spiritual house. You will undoubtedly start off with a rough surface and an uneven shape, but over your lifetime, God will steadily chisel and polish you until you fit beautifully into the spiritual house He is building with humanity. **Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 3:6**

Every stone has imperfections that must be dealt with before it can be put to use. Despite our best efforts, everyone has imperfections such as a bad temper, jealousy, pride, impatience, etc.

Another problem is that we don't fully cooperate with God's program:

- ❖ Denominations form because Christians can't get along with each other.



- ❖ Churches split because members hold grudges.
- ❖ Friendships are broken because there is no forgiveness.
- ❖ Marriages fall apart because husbands and wives refuse to love each other.

Have you let poor character decisions destroy your testimony?

BUILDING WITH GOD

Imagine that you're going to build a house. First, an architectural plan must be crafted for the proposed building. Then building materials must be gathered on site. Finally, it is assembled using the purchased materials.

Likewise, God is building a spiritual house on earth with living stones according to a plan that was crafted long ago. Having the necessary building materials is not the same as having a completed structure. When Solomon built the temple, it was necessary to purchase and procure materials, but even so, every stone still had to be cut, ground and polished before it could be fit into place.

GOD'S PROGRAM

Here is what it takes to be part of God's program:

1. God is methodically working out His master plan on this earth.
 - a. Being born again is a prerequisite.
 - b. You must also receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit or be handicapped.
2. God is building a spiritual house.
3. You are a living stone that is being prepared by God.
4. Allow God to place you into His spiritual house where He sees fit. This means allowing God to lay you on top of other stones, as well as having stones placed beside and on top of you as well.

Anyone can operate independently but it takes effort to work in harmony with other Christians. This is the example found throughout the New Testament. God wants you to be a team player. **John 15:5; Acts 2:1-4**

Understanding these objectives allows you to fulfill the primary purpose of loving God with every fiber of your being. God will then lead you as He sees fit until you become the praise of His glory. **Matthew 22:37-38**

One day you and I will join a heavenly choir and worship God for eternity. **Revelation 7:9-10**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!