

Introduction:

- Over the last year, fervor has erupted over Colonel Sanders' television re-emergence and the actors casted to play the company's iconic founder. Lost in the hubbub, though, was that Colonel Sanders was real and built KFC with his own two greasy hands. Sanders sold the company in 1964, but for years afterwards, he would regret it. In fact, Sanders would visit KFCs across the country criticizing the low quality of the food, saying the gravy was horrible and that the extra crispy recipe was nothing more than "a damn fried doughball stuck on some chicken."... In fact, he was so open about his disdain for the alterations made to his signature recipes that KFC sued him for libel in 1978. The suit was eventually thrown out.

APPLICATION: Although the Colonel was responsible for KFC's existence and its success, he did not like what it went on to become. One has to wonder if the same thing might be said of the Church. For although Jesus is responsible for her existence and success, is it possible He would like to see some changes?

- *"In the beginning the Church was a fellowship of men and women who centered their lives on the living Christ. They had a personal and vital relationship to the Lord. It transformed them and the world around them, Then the Church moved to Greece, and it became a philosophy. Later it moved to Rome, and it became an institution. Next it moved to Europe and it became a culture. Finally it moved to America, and it became an enterprise."* We must get back into the mainstream of God's intention. Attributed to Richard Halverson, US Senate Chaplain 1981-1994
- I want to talk about Freedom Christian Center today. About what God is doing here with us. And possibly point the way back to some "original recipe."
 - We started the year with the topic of the Word.
 - We spent the next two months on the Holy Spirit.
 - God's goal was to get you to fall in love with the Word once again and to fall in love with Holy Spirit again. In other words, God was taking the two foundational things of the Kingdom - His Word (Jesus) and His Spirit and re-establishing them to build something.
- God is building a house. A House is something you dwell in.
 - "Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." (Matthew 16:18, NLT)
 - "A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other." (1 Corinthians 12:7, NLT)

I. God Is Building A Spiritual House

- A. Who is the builder? It makes a difference who is doing the building. Ie. When I think of this church/structure. If you ask me who built it? I would say, MH Williams. If you ask the job superintendent, Dave, he would say, he did. If you asked another pastor in the area they might say, Pastor Tim did. God is the builder! It makes a difference who is doing the building. IE. Remember the Abba Father series last year. Hebrew -alph meaning

strength/progenitor. Byit meaning house. ABba - strength is in the house. Father is the strength of the house. God is the builder.

1. *"Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock **I will build** my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."* (Matthew 16:18, NLT)
 2. *"And you are living stones that **God is building** into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God."* (1 Peter 2:5, NLT)
 3. *"For every **house has a builder**, but the one who built everything is God."* (Hebrews 3:4, NLT) Read 3:1-4.
- B. What is He doing? Jesus said, *"I will build"*; Peter said, *"God is building"*
1. He is building - Gr. *oikodomea* - the act of building.
 2. The root is *oikos* - a place of dwelling or living.
 3. The verb is *oikeo* - to live, to dwell, to inhabit.
 4. The act of building is to assemble all of the different parts and materials in such a way as to create a dwelling place. IE. Your home is your dwelling place. This building is the dwelling place of Freedom Christian Center.
 5. So God is building a place to live, a place to inhabit, a place to dwell.
 - a) What happens in a dwelling place is connectedness, relationship.
 - b) This is done in both a singular (you) and plural (group of people)
 - c) God first comes to dwell in us, connect with us have relationship with us and then He does the same with us a group both connecting us to each other and dwelling in us corporately.
- C. What is He building?
1. I will build my church. Ekklesia/church is how this word is most often translated in scripture. Many of the Apostles and prophets are putting special emphasis on this word for two reasons.
 - a) One the word church has lost its significant understanding. Most relate to it as a building.
 - b) Two, they are emphasizing the 'ruling or reigning aspect of the word Ekklesia.
 - c) Ekklesia - in secular usage was often the group of ruling appointed people.
 - (1) It comes from the root Greek word, *Kaleo* which means to call, it also refers to calling. So the church becomes those who are called out of the world to become the body of Christ. The people bought by His blood. A high price was paid for us.
 - (2) Ekklesia - is both plural and singular. It is singular in that it refers to congregations of assemblies of people who follow Christ. And it is plural in that it refers to many assemblies all over the world. Or as One church in many places.
 2. God is building a spiritual temple.

- a) *"Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?"* (1 Corinthians 3:16, NLT)
 - b) God lives in you. You then are a dwelling place.
 - c) Parallel Expressions. "Often *ekklesiá* may not be present, but the matter itself is presented under different terms. 1 Peter especially offers such expressions as "spiritual house" (2:5), "chosen race" etc. (2:9), and "God's people" (2:10). Gal. 6:16 speaks of the "Israel of God," Gal. 3:29" Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of New Testament*. (pp. 399-400). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
3. What God is doing is assembling together those who have answered the call to become a follower of Christ. So with the work of the Holy Spirit and you as the raw materials, God begins the assembly process.
- a) God wants more assembly in the House of Freedom.
 - b) God is building something here that is unique to this community yet part of a greater whole.

II. Holy Spirit And Raw Materials

- A. God is building a spiritual house. What is it that make a house spiritual?
1. The Presence of the Holy Spirit -
 - a) It matters what spirit is behind the building taking place.
 - b) Demonic, soulish, Godly.
 - c) If God is building a House, and He is, the His Spirit is going to be in the midst of it. Without the Holy Spirit in the House it will quickly take on the spirit that is most prominent there. Come Holy Spirit!
 - d) The urgency of Jesus: "... he commanded them, *"Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before."* (Acts 1:4, NLT) Promise *"John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 1:5, NLT)
 - e) To Jews: *"Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God."* (Acts 2:38-39, NLT)
 - f) To Gentiles: *"The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too."* (Acts 10:45, NLT)
 2. The Culture of the Kingdom. A spiritual house will have the culture of the Kingdom of God. Worship done in Spirit and Truth. Lifestyle of the King of the Kingdom. Love of the Word, Prayer, and passion for making disciples.
 3. The operations of the Holy Spirit with in the people. Ekklesia - both singular and plural. When the Holy Spirit is present, the fruit of the Spirit is evident, the gifts of the

- Spirit are in operation, headship gifts are visible in the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. All five are needed to build equip a spiritual house to function.
- B. We are the 'raw materials' God uses. We are "it!"
1. *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."* (Ephesians 2:10, NKJV)
 2. *"Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it."* (Psalm 139:14, NLT)
 3. He is the master craftsman! IE. Song *"Something beautiful, something good. All my confusion He understood. All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife. But He made something beautiful out of my life."*
- C. Grace is one of the critical keys in the building process.
1. Defined: Grace is God's ability in me to do what I cannot do in and of myself.
 - a) Saved by grace.
 - b) Healed by grace.
 - c) Delivered by grace.
 2. God gave gifts:
 - a) Five fold: *"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers." "Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ."*(Ephesians 4:11,12 NLT) God gave to the church gifts that would help equip them to do the work of the ministry. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.
 - b) Spiritual gifts: God gave to each person in the Kingdom at least one spiritual gift.
 - (1) Each has been given gift 1 Peter . *"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."* (1 Peter 4:10, NLT)
 - (2) Each has a gift 1 Cor *"A spiritual gift (manifestation) is given to each of us so we can help each other."* (1 Corinthians 12:7, NLT)
- D. The call is work with God and to use our spiritual gifts.
1. So that we help each other.
 2. 12:25 *"This makes for harmony when we care for one another."*

Conclusion:

- God is the Builder
- He is building a house - a place where people connect, relate and help each other.
- We connect to receive from each other and we connect to give to each other.
- What give and receive is God's ability and that is grace!
- Invitation to become a follow of Christ.