

THE MASTER BUILDER

THE MASTER BUILDER OF THE CHURCH

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Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. (Psalm 127:1, NIV)

Church definition: *ekklēsia* (Greek) *the called out ones*

- An assembly of Christians gathered for worship in a religious meeting.
- A company of Christians, or of those who, hoping for eternal salvation through Jesus Christ, observe their own religious rites, hold their own religious meetings, and manage their own affairs, according to regulations prescribed for the body for order's sake.

The Church is therefore made of people and not buildings.

Why Church?

The Church is God's instrument for change in this world, Jesus Himself laid down His life for the Church. (*Partnership Guide, Session 11, Why Church*)

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

(Matthew 16:18-19, NIV) Further reading: **Acts 1:1-11**.

Peter and The First Church

Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. (Acts 2:41, NIV)

As soon as Peter and the disciples started doing what Jesus had set for them to do, people were immediately added to their number and the Church grew and they did everything together.

The Fellowship of the Believers - *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."*

(Acts 2:42-27, NIV)

Through Peter and the disciples, God started to do what He had promised and that is to draw people unto Himself and build His church.

Stephen and The First Volunteers

People were needed for serving and this was done through prayer and seven men were chosen. (Acts 6:1-7)

Three Key Points from Acts 6:1-7

1. The people were chosen for the specific purpose of serving.
2. They chose those who were known to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.
3. As a result of the volunteers serving, the word of God spread and numbers increased rapidly.

What Does This Mean to Me?

My Church, My Responsibility

Jesus looked at Peter and said to him, *“on you Peter, I will build my Church”* (Matthew 16:18-19). Jesus is looking at you and saying 'on you I will build my Church'. Together with the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus has established and continues to grow His church through people, this is Jesus's Church (you are the church) and Jesus will come back for it. (John 21:15-17)

Since you are church, whenever you criticise the church, you criticise yourself and whenever you build up the church, you build yourself up and whenever you take up the responsibility to see it through then the Church flourishes, in turn you flourish.

Qualifications For Building Church With Jesus

1. We must be chosen. (1 Peter 2:9-10)
2. We must be filled with the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)
3. We must have wisdom. (James 1:5)

But I'm In Lockdown...

1. Pray for the Church.
2. Be available.
3. Be involved.
4. Make it a priority.
5. Connect.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3:23-24, NIV)

Don't stop building Church, don't stop taking responsibility for it, for it is Christ you are serving and at the proper time God shall reward you.

Do not be deceived, God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows... (Galatians 6:7, NIV)