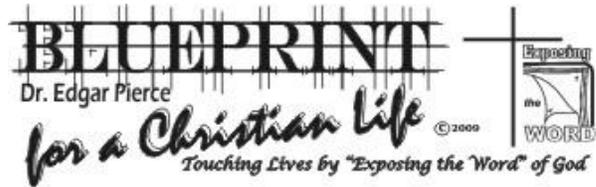


An "Exposing the Word" Sermon Series



5- Stay in Contact with the Contractor (the Spirit) Eph 2:18-22

"Life is like a box of chocolates", Forest Gump said in the movie, "You never know what you are going to get."

It is full of problems to be solved and challenges to be overcome.

The story is told of a man who lived for years in fear of strange, hideous animals who would hide under his bed and come out at night to prowl the room. One day the man told a friend, 'My brother finally solve my problem.'

'Oh, is he a psychiatrist?' the friend asked. 'No, a carpenter. He cut the legs off my bed.' *Source unknown*

As we have journeyed through this series *Blueprint for a Christian Life* we have seen that the old house of the flesh is not good enough. We have found that we need to study the Blueprints of the Word of God. We talked about choosing a builder is important and Christ, the Son, is the builder we need to choose. We have also discussed the Father, the Architect of the plan for our life. This brings us to the third Person of the triune God, the Spirit. May I suggest to us that the Holy Spirit is acting as the Contractor for our lives. He is the one who is in charge of the day to day building of the Saints. We know this process as sanctification. In construction many times there is what is known as a project manager whose job it is to control the project day to day.

Our text today is found in **Eph 2:18-22** with the main emphasis on verse twenty two.

Ephesians 2:18-22 *For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the*

household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

I- Promise of the Spirit:

In order for us to understand the work of the Holy Spirit we need to see what was promised by Christ concerning Him.

Joh 14:16 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.* While it is true that God dwells in our hearts it is equally true that He dwells there in the form of the Holy Spirit who is the permanent presence with us.

Joh 14:26 *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

He is to teach us all things. The Holy Spirit was promised to be the one who would be with us day to day to build us.

II- Coming of the Spirit:

Acts chapter two records for us the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. **Acts 2:1-3** *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled*

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all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

I know we are some two thousand years removed from this. Some teach that we get the Holy Spirit with a special infilling after we pray and seek Him after salvation. I think the clear teaching of the Scriptures is that the Holy Spirit is the one who facilitates the new birth by Christ. **1Co 12:13** *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

II- Built Together:

It tells us we are all built together. God uses all kinds of material in construction the body of Christ, the church. Jews, Gentiles, slaves, freemen etc. We see in **Eph 2:21** that we are fitly joined together. Not a one of us should be exempt from, nor are we, from the conviction of the Holy Spirit as He build us. **1Co 3:9** *For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*

Notice Jesus said that was one of the purposes of His coming. **John 16:8-11** *And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*

We also see these words in **Pro 3:11-12** *My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: 12 For whom the LORD loveth he*

correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

Billy Graham comments on the subject:

'The Bible says, 'Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth.' If life were all easy, wouldn't we become flabby? When a ship's carpenter needed timber to make a mast for a sailing vessel, he did not cut it in the valley, but up on the mountainside where the trees had been buffeted by the winds. These trees, he knew, were the strongest of all. Hardship is not our choice; but if we face it bravely, it can toughen the fiber of our souls.

'God does not discipline us to subdue us, but to condition us for a life of usefulness and blessedness. In His wisdom, He knows that an uncontrolled life is an unhappy life, so He puts reins on our wayward souls that they may be directed into the paths of righteousness.'

So the Contractor is working on us day by day to build us together.

III- Habitat of God:

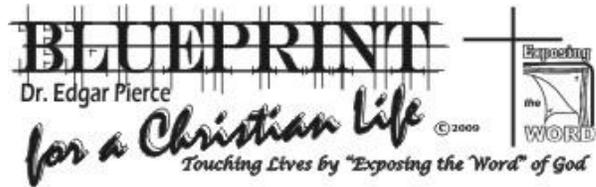
Notice vs 21 says He is building us together to be a holy temple in God. Then in verse 22 it says we are being built for God to live in us. The NIV says in **Eph 2:22** *And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

God wants to become a permanent resident within us. His presence is there day to day in the form of the Holy Spirit who is working to build us into a place for God.

IV- Let the Contractor Build:

Lets spend just a few moments and understand how we can let the Holy Spirit build us day by day.

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Many times when the builder is building their house there are a lot of decisions to be made. Some people want to argue with the contractor constantly and not listen to good experienced advice. Would you not say the same

1- Do not Quench Spirit.

We are told in **1Th 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.** The HCSB says, **"Don't stifle the Spirit."** This means do not put out the fire. **2Ti 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.** Stir up means fan the flames.

This can also be understood as not using the gifts that God has given you by the Holy Spirit.

Many times we are like the lamp I read about.

Imagine a wick that is placed in oil, and then lit. If the oil runs out, the wick burns. As long as there is oil, the wick doesn't burn. As long as we are living in dependence on the power of the Holy

Spirit, we don't burn out. The question to ask: what's burning?

2- Do not Grieve the Spirit:

could be true in our contractor analogy of the Holy Spirit.

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

The word grieve means to make sad or sorrowful. As He seeks to build us we need to realize that we are to be about the work ourselves as well. How do we grieve the Spirit and hinder growth.

By open sin, by anger at the brethren, by evil thoughts and desires, by not being thankful to God, by neglect when He prompts us, by resisting Him when He leads.

Speak to Him then, for He hears, And spirit with spirit can meet; Closer is He than breathing, And nearer than hands or feet. - Tennyson