

Lesson #27

Building on the Foundation

Moving On

As previously stated, Destiny 101 is a study course designed to establish vision and foundation. But a foundation is not an end in itself. A foundation is established for the purpose of building upon it. So the question we come to at the end of this study is: What now?

¹ Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

— Hebrews 6:1 (NKJV)

The part of verse 1 above that is most likely to stand out as an answer to “What now?” is this: “...let us go on to perfection (or maturity).” That would be correct, but what is it that we move on from? If you say, “The foundations” that would be incorrect. As was pointed out in *Lesson 16: The Milk and the Meat*, we move on from the *discussion* of the elementary principles, not from the *practice* of them. It is the practice or use of the foundations that constitutes building on them and is referred to as the word of righteousness. Doing so moves us into maturity and teaches us to discern good and evil, as seen in the passage below.

¹³ For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

— Hebrews 5:14 (NKJ)

Building With Quality

We have established a pathway by looking at **where we came from and where we are going** (John 8:14). Then we established a strategic plan by plugging in the foundational principles of preparation (Heb 6:1-2). Now, to be good stewards of what we have learned, we begin to build on the foundation we have established, and become true witness of the kingdom.

Many people are simply taught they are Christians and will go to heaven if they believe in God, say a prayer or go to church. Yet there is often little mention of a repentance from sin and hearing from God, sanctification and living in holiness, or being a disciple who is in training and preparing for the coming kingdom. If our witness does not include the foundational principles, what we build is in danger of being the wood, hay and stubble. These are those who are built into God’s house but fail to endure in the day of the Lord.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward.

¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

— 1 Cor 3:10-15 (NKJV)

Most Christian's correctly understand that salvation is not by works. Salvation is a free gift of God's grace through faith (Eph 2:8:9). Yet as we stand in the truth that we are not saved by works, we must also remember that we are created in Christ Jesus *for* good works (Eph 2:10). It is through the quality of our work that we receive rewards.

Melchizedek and the Word of Righteousness

Scripture tells us that Jesus was (and is) a priest according to the order of Melchizedek. This is the context of the foundational principles.

¹⁰ called by God as High Priest "*according to **the order of Melchizedek,***"

¹¹ of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

¹³ For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in **the word of righteousness**, for he is a babe.

— Hebrews 5:9-13 (NKJV) emphasis added

Since leaving the milk and going on to solid food/maturity is referred to as becoming skilled in "the word of righteousness," let's look more closely at this word of righteousness is. The writer of Hebrews had a desire to explain the ministry of Melchizedek and build on the foundation, but he could not because those he wrote to were unable to hear and lacked foundations.

Again from *Lesson 16*, we learned that the *Strong's Greek Dictionary* defines righteousness as coming from *dikaios*, meaning *equity (of character or act)*. This follows with what Jesus said about those who believe on Him doing greater works.

¹² Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

– John 14:12 (NKJV)

Building on the foundation, moving on to maturity, and partaking of the word of righteousness is to move into the same kind of ministry that Jesus did which is to attain to the order of Melchizedek, which is essentially Christlikeness. There is much more to explain about Melchizedek and I do pretend to have a full understanding, but I believe the Melchizedek priesthood to be the highest order of priests. The basic function of priests is laid out in Deuteronomy.

⁵ Then the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come near, for the LORD your God has chosen them to minister to Him and to bless in the name of the LORD; by their word every controversy and every assault shall be *settled*.

— Deuteronomy 21:5 (NKJV)

The above verse from Deuteronomy, speaking of settling controversies and assaults, is describing a mature people of God who will rule and reign with Christ as judges in His millennial kingdom — and to some degree *before* the kingdom appears (see 1 Cor 6:1-3). This is why Paul prayed that our eyes would be open to our calling and the greatness of His power available to us in the age to come and in this present age as well (see Eph 1:18-21).

Becoming the Ekklesia

Jesus said, “I will build my church...” (Matt 16:18). But the word He used in the original language was *ekklesia*.

¹⁸ ... I will build My church [ekklesia], and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and 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 (NKJV)

Most early English translators translated *ekklesia* as *assembly*. *Ekklesia* is a term which, in Greek/Roman culture, meant a governing body. Jesus was saying that He would build an assembly that would lead in the culture. The word *assembly* is still used today when we speak of governmental bodies.

Notice the governmental context in Matthew Chapter 16:18-19 above. Jesus said the gates of hell (Hades) shall not prevail against His *ekklesia*. In the Bible, gates speak of those in governmental positions, i.e., the elders of the city would sit in the gates (see Prov 31:23). We also see in the passage above that Jesus' *ekklesia* would bind and loose, in earth and in heaven, indicating that Jesus is building a governing body (*ekklesia*) which has authority on earth as well as in heaven.

Just two chapters later, in Matthew, Chapter 18, Jesus again referred to His *ekklesia* *functioning* governmentally by binding and loosing. In this passage, we see that a group as small as of two or three, with the presence of the Lord, can be a fully functioning *ekklesia*.

¹⁸ Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

— Matthew 18:18-20 (NKJV)

With this understanding of *ekklesia* in mind, let's turn our attention back to Melchizedek. Melchizedek, was royalty (King of Salem) and the name literally means *king of righteousness*. It also calls to mind what Peter wrote about a special people with a calling to royalty.

⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

— 1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

We have a greater destiny than we can imagine! This is why the foundations must be established in our hearts before we build partake of the word of righteousness, function as a royal priesthood and fulfill our destiny.

Entering His Rest

The Melchizedek order, a royal priesthood with equity of character and deed with Christ, doing the same works Jesus did, becoming a governing *ekklesia* — Wow! Pretty heavy stuff! Yes, these things may be our destiny but just thinking about it all can feel somewhat overwhelming!

Walking into the priesthood is not a burden, they are promise! The Lord knows that we don't move into these things overnight. These things happen as we simply walk with Jesus day by day. We are changed by the Spirit of the Lord as we look to Him. He is the One who does it.

¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

— 2 Cor 3:18 (NKJV)

Our destiny is not a judgment, it is a journey. We will arrive at our destiny if we simply do two things: 1) Seek His presence and 2) do His work. Let's look at each of these briefly.

1) *The Presence of the Lord Jesus*

Jesus promises to be present when only two or three people gather in His name. Therefore, we should realize that a large crowd is not necessary for a full spiritual experience. As the psalmist said, "In Your presence is fullness of joy" (Ps 16:10).

The promise of His presence when we gather must be understood as more than a doctrinal belief. We must be like Moses who said to the Lord, "If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here" (Exodus 33:15). This is undoubtedly what Jesus meant when He spoke about true worshipers saying, "... true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24). His tangible presence is a reality that is essential to genuine Christianity.

2) *Doing His Work*

The context of Jesus' promise to be with those who gather in His name (His presence) is doing His work. "...if two of you agree on earth concerning anything they ask, it will be **done** for them by My

Father in heaven” (see Matt 18:19). Jesus said, ... "My food is to **do** the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work (John 4:34 -NASB), and it is our food as well. We were not saved by our works, but we were saved for good works (Eph 2:10). Only when we are in His presence, can we accomplish His work.

The presence of the Lord and doing His work are inseparable. In His presence is where we see what He is doing and then we know what we are to do (see John 5:19). In His presence there is fulness of joy and the joy of Lord is our strength (see Neh 8:10) to do His work. These two things essentially describe the corresponding action for the first foundational principle, *to know Him and do good works out of a personal relationship with Him*, and they point us back to our strategy of preparation in this present age. This is how we enter His rest.

The epilogue that follows provides a summary overview of Destiny 101 which will help refresh the big picture and encourage the next steps toward your destiny.