

BEARING FRUITS THROUGH FELLOWSHIP!



THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH.

Today's big question: who is the Head of the church?

The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. As we begin our devotionals on biblical authority and the church, it is important that we start with the proper foundation. Jesus Christ, the head of the church, is that foundation. 1Corinthians 3: 11; says; for no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Colossians 1: 18; and He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. The Bible often uses the image of a cornerstone, the first and most essential stone laid in the construction of a building, to refer to Christ. Literally translated, this word means "the head of the corner." Throughout the Old Testament, we are given prophecies of this coming Head. Matthew 21: 42; and Act 4: 11; Jesus said to them; have you never read in the scripture; the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing. And it is marvelous in our eyes? The Jewish builders refused; their political ones; their rulers, that believed not on Him, the princes of this world, that rose up against Him and crucified Him; even those who were the supporter of their civil state, and maintainers of it; but more especially their ecclesiastical builders, the chief priest, Scribes, and Pharisees, who build the people, or directed them to build on their carnal privileges, the traditions of the elders, and their own legal righteousness. These refused to receive Jesus as the Messiah, and to believe in Him; they refuse to own and honor Him as King of Zion, they refused His doctrines and ordinances; they refuse to hear Him preach, or suffer others to hear Him; they refuse to make use of Him in the spiritual building, either to preach Him themselves, or allow others to do it, they rejected Him with contempt; they set Him at naught, and preferred a thief and a robber to Him. Isaiah 28:16; therefore thus says the Lord God: behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily.

In the New Testament, Jesus quoted the prophecy from Psalm 118 and applied it to Himself.(Matt:21: 42;). Both Paul and Peter later affirmed that Christ is this cornerstone. Eph: 2: 20; Acts 4: 11; 1 Peter 2: 4-8; to whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to the God of Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious: and he that believe on Him shall not be confounded. Unto to you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builder disallowed, the same is made the Head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Christ fulfilled the prophecies and became our Cornerstone by dying for us and raising from the dead(Eph: 1: 20;) which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own

right hand in the heavenly places. He is therefore head over all things to the church, which is His body. Clearly, the head is crucial for the health of the body. Your body would be lifeless without your head, and in the same way it is from Christ that we, the church, are to live and grow. Eph: 4: 15-16; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, makes increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. The head is the source of commands and decisions that affect the rest of the body. Likewise, Christ guides and directs the church. In Scripture there is also a parallel between Christ as the Head of the church and the husband the head of the wife. 1 Corinthians: 11: 3; but I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of every woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. The wife is therefore to submit to the husband, just as the church is to submit to Christ.

The principal stone placed at the corner of the edifice. This is usually one of the largest, the most solid, and the most carefully constructed of any in the edifice. Of course one would be needed at each corner of the building to constitute a firm support, but usually there is one placed at one corner of an edifice larger and more carefully made than the others, often laid with imposing ceremonies, and prepared to contain whatever it may be thought necessary to deposit in the foundation of the building to be transmitted to future times as preserving the name of the builders, or expressing the design of the edifice. Such a position he who had been rejected was to occupy in the civil polity of his country; such a position eminently the Lord Jesus occupies in relation to the church. Eph: 2:20; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone.

Jesus Christ, though rejected by the world, is our Cornerstone; He is our Head and our Foundation. He is the reason the church exists, and everything we do must be based on Him. Christ is to have preeminence in the church, our lives, and all things.

Pastor Jonathan.

Divine Order Revealed In the Step Ladder to Holiness

Seek, Set, Mortify, Put Off, Put On, Let

I am sharing the revelation God has given me. I have been living this out and have seen the mighty hand of God work in me as a result. First He revealed to me in my mind and heart, then He showed me in Colossians 3 that Paul had already laid this out. This is a divine pattern for those serious about holiness and serving Christ as overcomes. The grace, (enabling power of God) to perform that which Paul has laid out here will be given in the same order as it appears in the text. Use this as a mirror to inspect your status, to pin point where you are on the road to the Holiness without which no one will see God. This is your gauge. If you find you can't seem to get past something, this is the time to fast

and pray. One can always fast and pray. One can always come boldly to the throne of grace. So when we can't get past a sin or a fault in our character or any sort of ungodliness, we can fast and pray and God will do what only He can do for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Philippians 2: (Hebrews 4:16 let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.) For example, one should have repented and be living in victory over the items listed after the word "mortify" before expecting to be victorious in putting on the character described after the phrase "put on". God demands repentance and Holiness for He is Holy. He has not called us to that which we cannot perform. The blood of Christ has made it possible for us to walk in the grace of God, in the presence and power of His Holy Spirit. Read for yourself and discover the pattern, the divine order of God as inspired by The Holy Ghost in the words of Paul.

Seek Col 3:1 if, (since) ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set

Col 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Col 3:3 for ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Col 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Mortify; Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: Col 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: Col 3:7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. Put off; Col 3:8 but now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Col 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Put On; Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Col 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Col 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. Col 3:14 and above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. (This can be said this way, "And above all these things put on agape love, which is the seal and the mark of holiness").Let; Col 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Now you may enter in to His rest. For there is no rest for the wicked. Once your repentance is complete the peace of Christ will flood your being, all you have to do is "let" the peace of God rule in

your heart. Now we may serve Christ on earth as we wait for His appearing when we will, "receive the reward of the inheritance" Col 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Col 3:18 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Col 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged. Col 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye service, as men pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: Col 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Col 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. Col 3:25 but he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

Gary Gray.

My TRIALS

*****I BEGAN USING COCAINE IN NEW YORK IN 1986 AND I BELIEVE THAT I WAS ADDICTED FROM MY FIRST 'HIT'. I WAS BROUGHT BACK TO MY HOMELAND, ANTIGUA, IN 1987 AND IMMEDIATELY STARTED A BUSINESS. I DID VERY WELL BETWEEN 1987-1990, BUSINESS WISE. HOWEVER, COCAINE GIVES ONE GRANDIOUS IDEAS AND PUT'S ONE INTO A FANTASY WORLD AND I TRIED TO PROMOTE A GROUP FROM JAMAICA WITHOUT DOING ANY FEASIBILITY STUDY AND IT WAS FINANCIALLY DISASTROUS. SOON AFTER I SUNK INTO A DEEP DEPRESSION AND LOST EVERYTHING. I CONTINUED USING COCAINE PERIODICALLY, BETWEEN 1990-1995. MY YOUNGER BROTHER BOUGHT ME INTO THE BUSINESS WHICH HE RESUMED AND I DID WELL FOR A SHORT TIME. I GOT MARRIED IN THAT PERIOD BUT THE MARRIAGE WAS SHORT-LIVED. I WENT TO ERIC CLAPTON'S REHAB IN ANTIGUA IN 1998 AND RELAPSED AFTER 6 MONTHS. I WAS RE-ADMITTED IN 2002 AND RELAPSED 8 MONTHS LATER.**

IN JUNE 2003 I ATTEMPTED SUICIDE. I WAS SICK AND TIRED OF BEING SICK AND TIRED. I DID NOT WANT TO CONTINUE LIVING WITH THE DISGRACE I MADE OF MY LIFE AND MYSELF AND I DRANK A BOTTLE OF HAVOLINE CAR ENGINE COOLANT. I WAS IN A COMA FOR A FEW DAYS. MY KIDNEY'S WAS AFFECTED, WHERE MY BODY WAS SWELLING. THE DOCTORS TOLD ME THAT I WAS CLINICALLY DEAD AND THE CATHOLIC PRIEST GAVE ME LAST RIGHTS. I SPENT 1 MONTH IN THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT. I USED COCAINE AGAIN SOON AFTER MY DISCHARGE FROM THE HOSPITAL AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AGAIN. BUT THIS TIME I DID NOT CONSUME AS MUCH POISON AS I DID THE FIRST TIME AND I SPENT 10 DAYS IN THE ICU. I THEN WENT TO 'CROSSROADS' FOR A THIRD TIME AND I HAVE BEEN CLEAN AND SOBER SINCE OCTOBER 21ST 2003.

THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT IT WAS A MIRACLE AND GOD SAVED MY LIFE, NOT ONLY FROM THE SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BUT FROM THE NUMEROUS NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCES I HAD DURING MY 18 YEARS OF ADDICTION. ONE EARLY MORNING I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL AND GAVE THE

DOCTOR AN IDEA ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF COCAINE/CRACK/ALCOHOL, MARIJUANA/ AND VALIUM I HAD IN MY SYSTEM AND HE ASKED "AND YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?".

I BELIEVE THAT GOD SAVED MY LIFE FOR A REASON. I BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS A PLAN FOR ME AND AS I CONTINUE TO FOLLOW HIS LEAD, I AM THANKFUL FOR MY DEAR FRIENDS JONATHAN AND JULIETTE AMBROSE WHO HAVE BEEN A TREMENDOUS SOURCE OF INSPIRATION TO ME.

GOD IS GOOD EVERYTIME.

Mary "mj

TROUBLED HEARTS

FOR MY HEART GRIEVES

AND MY SOUL WORRIES

FOR THE LORD HAS HIS ARMS OUT STRETCHED WIDE

IT EXTENDS FROM THE HORIZON TO THE SHORE

AND THEN IT WILL EXTENDS NO MORE

MERCY IS NOW AT IT'S PAINFUL END

THE WAY BACK IS THROUGH JUDGMENT'S DOOR

AS HIS ARMS RETRACKS IT BRINGS WITH IT

HIS PASSION AND HIS GREAT LOVE

BUT NEVERTHELESS BECAUSE OF HIS WORD

MERCY CAN SAVE YOU NO MORE

IT'S TIME TO BOW AND REPENT

ON YOUR KNEES AND CONFESS

CONFESS EVERY ASPECT IN GREAT DETAIL

REPENT! REPENT! REPENT!

JESUS IS LORD!!

PASTOR JONATHAN.

19 MAIN POINTS IN THE MODEL PRAYER

- 1. JESUS SAID IT. JESUS PRESENTED THIS MODEL AND TOLD US, TO USE IT. WHEN ASKED BY HIS FOLLOWERS HOW TO PRAY, HE TOLD THEM WHAT TO PRAY AND INSTRUCTED THEM NOT TO PRAY LIKE THE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE OF OUR DAY WHO PRAYED PRAYERS FILLED WITH MEANINGLESS WORDS.**
- 2. IT IS GOD CENTERED. THE MODEL PRAYER HELPS OUR PRAYERS TO BE GOD – CENTERED INSTEAD OF SELF-CENTERED.**
- 3. IT IS PRODUCTIVE. GOD’S WAYS ARE PERFECT; THEREFORE, GOD’S MODEL FOR PRAYING WILL PRODUCE MORE OF HIS RESULTS FOR OUR LIVES.**
- 4. IT IS SCRIPTURAL.**
- 5. IT IS STRATEGIC. THE MODEL PRAYER OFFERS A BALANCED STRATEGY FOR PRAYING.**
- 6. IT IS PRACTICAL. ONCE YOU BEGIN TO PRACTICE THE MODEL, IT BECOMES SECOND NATURE.**
- 7. IT IS TRANSFORMATIONAL. BECAUSE THE PRAYER FOCUSES ON GOD’S WILL, IT WORKS TO TRANSFORM YOU.**
- 8. IT IS EXCITING. YOUR PRAYER LIFE WILL BECOME MORE MEANINGFUL AND EXCITING AS YOU WORK WITH GOD TO PRAY FOR HIS INTEREST.**
- 9. IT IS INTERMATE. BECAUSE THIS PRAYER IS GOD CENTERED, YOU WILL ENJOY A NEW AND FRESH AWARENESS OF GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
- 10. IT IS THE LIVING WORD. YOU WILL EXPERIENCE THE POWER, PRESENCE, AND PROVIDENCE OF GOD BECAUSE OF THE REPEATED USE OF HIS WORD.**
- 11. IT PRODUCES FAITH. YOUR FAITH IN THE DEPENDENCE ON GOD WILL INCREASE AS YOU LEARN HOW TO PARTNER WITH HIM AND FOLLOW THE ORDER OF THE MODEL PRAYER.**
- 12. IT IS RELATIONAL. YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD WILL GROW AND MATURE AS YOU LEARN TO FOLLOW HIS LEAD WHILE PRAYING THROUGH THE MODEL PRAYER PATTERN.**
- 13. IT IS BROADLY APPLICABLE. THIS MODEL CAN BE APPLIED TO YOUR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIFE.**
- 14. IT IS POWERFUL. AS YOU PRAY FOR GOD’S KINGDOM TO BE ESTABLISHED, YOU WILL BECOME A POWERFUL CHANGE AGENT FOR YOUR FAMILY, BUSINESS, COMMUNITY, AND NATION.**
- 15. IT BRINGS GLORY TO GOD. THE MODEL PRAYER GLORIFIES GOD, BOTH IN ITS PRAISE FOR HIM AND THROUGH THE RESULTS IT YIELDS.**
- 16. IT EXALTS JESUS.**
- 17. IT MAGNIFIES THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
- 18. IT DEFEATS DARKNESS. AS YOU PRAY FOR GOD’S WILL TO BE DONE, THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL WILL BE DEFEATED.**
- 19. IT WORKS. ANYTHING THAT CREATES IS, BY NATURE, EFFECTIVE.**

SIX SECTIONS OF THE MODEL PRAYER

- 1. INTIMATE PRAISE AND WORSHIP. OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME.**
- 2. PRAYING GOD'S WILL. YOUR KINGDOM COME. YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.**
- 3. PRAYING FOR YOUR NEEDS. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.**
- 4. PRAYING FOR FORGIVNESS. AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.**
- 5. PRAYING FOR PROTECTION. AND DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.**
- 6. KINGDOM PRAISE AND WORSHIP. FOR YOUR IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER. AMEN.**

PASTOR JONATHAN.

TEARING DOWN THE WALL OF SEPARATION.

NOTHING WORKS IN OUR LIVES WHEN WE DON'T LIVE GOD'S WAY, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH OUR PRAYERS ARE NOT ANSWERED. THIS VERSE SAYS THAT OUR SINS SEPARATES US FROM GOD SO THAT HE WILL NOT HEAR US WHEN WE PRAY. DON'T LET UNCONFESSED SINS SEPARATE YOU FROM GOD AND HINDER YOUR PRAYERS. IF YOU CAN'T THINK OF ANY SIN IN YOUR LIFE, ASK GOD TO SHOW YOU WHATEVER YOU NEED TO SEE IN THAT REGARD. ALL OF US GET THINGS IN OUR HEARTS, SOULS, MINDS, ATTITUDES, AND EMOTIONS THAT SHOULDN'T BE THERE AND ARE NOT GOD'S BEST FOR OUR LIVES. OFTEN WE HAVE SIN IN OUR HEARTS AND DON'T REALIZE IT UNTIL WE STARTS PAYING THE CONSEQUENCES FOR IT. DON'T LET ANY SEPARATION HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND GOD. TALK TO HIM DAILY ABOUT THE CONDITION OF YOUR HEART. ASK GOD OFTEN TO KEEP YOU UNDECEIVED. AND WHEN HE REVEALS ANY SIN CONFESS IT IMMEDIATELY SO THAT YOU CAN BE CLEANSED OF IT. WE ALL FAIL AT TIMES, SO DON'T LET ANY FAILURE ON YOURR PART HINDER YOUR PRAYERS IN ANY WAY. IF YOU TAKE CARE OF THIS ISSUE BY YOURSELF WITH GOD IN THE DAYTIME, BY CONFESSING AND REPENTING OF ALL YOUR SINS AS SOON AS YOU ARE AWARE OF IT, THEN YOU WON'T HAVE TO BE DEALING WITH THE EFFECTS OF IT WHEN YOU ARE TRYING TO SLEEP AT NIGHT.

LORD, I KNOW MY LIFE DOES NOT WORK WHEN I AM NOT LIVING YOUR WAY. HELP ME TO STAY UNDECEIVED ABOUT MY OWN SIN SO THAT I CAN CONFESS IT IMMEDIATELY AND BE CLEANSED OF IT. I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO SEPARATE ME FROM YOU AND HINDER MY PRAYERS BY CAUSING YOU TONOT HEAR THEM. SHOW ME HOW TO TEAR DOWN MY WALLS OF SEPARATION THAT MAY ARISE BECAUSE OF MY SINS.

JULIETTE.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

THESE SIX THINGS THE LORD HATES: PROVERBS 6: 16-19;

A PROUD LOOK

A LYING TONGUE

HANDS THAT SHED INNOCENT BLOOD

A HEART THAT DEVISES WICKED PLANS

FEET THAT ARE SWIFT IN RUNNING TO EVIL

A FALSE WITNESS WHO SPEAKS LIES.