

# WE ARE BORN TO BUILD AND NOT BREAK

Dearly beloved we were created to build and not to break. It's important that we build instead of breaking. The enemy wants to break our family, our purpose and our plans. He doesn't do that directly but uses us to do that. Our words and actions break not just our lives but other's as well. Thus through us, the enemy breaks us and our future. But what we need to understand is, the enemy tries to break but God wants to use us to create and to build. During this pandemic (Corona), the enemy wants to break many things and one among them is our faith. We are so anxious and scared about what is going to happen and broken. But God says, 'you are born not to break but to build.' Not just you but we are going to build people around us. Our family time is actually breaking us. But God wants to remind us that we are not born to break and destroy but to build.

Confess saying we are born to build.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

One Sunday morning a wealthy man sat in his balcony enjoying sunshine and his coffee when a little ant caught his eye which was going from one side to the other side of the balcony carrying a big leaf several times more than its size. The man watched it for more than an hour. He saw that the ant faced many impediments during its journey, took a diversion and then continued towards destination.

At one point the tiny creature came across a crack in the floor. It paused for a little while, analyzed and then laid the huge leaf over the crack, walked over the leaf, picked the leaf on the other side then continued its journey. Meanwhile it also met another which it helped on its way to cross the crack.

The man was captivated by the cleverness of the ant, one of God's tiniest creatures. The incident left the man in awe and forced him to contemplate over the miracle of Creation. The man saw about an hour later the creature had reached its destination – a tiny hole in the floor which was an entrance to its underground dwelling. So the tiny creature, tried to take the leaf inside but it was not able to take in it as the leaf was big. After all the painstaking and hard work, and exercising great skills, overcoming all the difficulties along the way, tried to take the leaf inside but just left behind the large leaf and went home empty-handed. The ant was able to take only the ant which came along, to its destination.

We worry about our family, our job, how to earn more money, where we should live, what kind of a vehicle to buy, and what kind of dresses to wear, and all sorts of things, only to abandon all these things when we reach our destination – The Grave. We don't realise in our life's journey that these are just burdens that we are carrying with utmost care and fear of losing them, only to find that at the end they are useless and we can't take them with us. We will only be able to take people – our family, friends and well wishers, along. People whose lives we have built, whom we have brought along. The real job of a Christian is to build another fellow believer than to destroy.

## ***Important Question:***

How many lives have we built so far – our children's lives, our family members, and people around us? How many people around us will say that we shared God's word to them, they played an important role and built their lives.....probably we have destroyed more lives than building....by our words and actions?

The enemy wants to use us to break and destroy many people's lives but God wants to use us to build and establish people's lives.

## **TWO IMPORTANT THINGS:**

1. How are we going to build others.
2. How are we going to build ourselves.

### **Key Verse:**

#### **1 Thessalonians 5:12-14**

12 - Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you

13 - Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

14 - And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

Paul says that we need to respect and love those who advise us. Something which we never like. We like to advise but not to be advised. But the word says we need to respect people who advise us for they really care about us and they want to build us.

### **1. HOW ARE WE GOING TO BUILD OTHERS**

It's very important to understand how we can build others. We speak a lot to our family members and friends but what we are to do actually.

The verse speaks about six things:

- a) Admonish the idle
- b) Encourage the fainthearted
- c) Help the weak
- d) Be patient with them all
- e) See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, and
- f) Seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

Six important things that we need to do to build others. We see about a man named Barnabas (Acts 4:36&37), it says he was called 'Son of Encouragement'. He played an important in encouraging and building Paul. God had a Barnabas to build Paul. When Paul was first converted, Christians were afraid of him. He had been a brutal enemy of the Christian faith. He had arrested many and had even aided in their deaths. The Christians in Jerusalem were fearful when he came.

Acts 9:26 says, "When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple."

This was a very strange situation for Paul. He wanted to be their friend, but they were suspicious.

The next verse provided the solution.

Acts 9:27 says, "But Barnabas took him and brought him to the Apostles."

Barnabas took him right to the top and made it clear that Paul was truly converted and was a great messenger of the Gospel. After this, Paul could move about freely and speak boldly in the name of Jesus. Barnabas was the friend that helped Paul overcome his bad image and become an accepted spokesman of the faith.

Sad to say, the reason that many are yet to be saved is because of the believers, for people are extreme legalists, find fault with others and never allow them to repent, come back and be comforted. Barnabas on the other side he always saw the good side of people. He saw past their failures to their potential for

good and encouraged them. One important reason for Paul to be a great man of God was Barnabas, the encourager.

Can somebody say likewise about us? Are we building someone or are we breaking someone?

Are we still speaking about someone's past or see the future that God had kept for them and encourage them?

### **1 Thessalonians 5:14**

And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

#### **a. Admonish The Idle**

It says we need to speak (advice) to them and not speak about them. It means that if someone has done something wrong, we need to advise and help them to correct themselves and condemn and embarrass them. Most of us do this. This will not build someone but rather break and destroy them. This virus has affected everyone irrespective of who they are.

We need to encourage and build someone – be like a father, mentor, brother or a friend. Teach them and not talk about them. Bad and negative information have been shared the most. But the Word says, we need to advise someone and not speak ill about them.

#### **b. Encourage The Fainthearted**

We need to encourage the fainthearted.

Ephesians 4:29 says "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Unwholesome talk here doesn't mean about the foul and abusive language but speaking ill about others. Speaking unnecessarily about someone and commenting about them. This does not build someone. If you want to help correct someone, talk to them in person but don't embarrass them in public.

#### **c. Help The Weak**

We need to help the weak.

The work of the Holy Spirit is to help us (Romans 8). We should not keep pointing out to people about their weakness and their inabilities; it will only discourage him. If you are strong in that, go help them and uphold them in their weakness, their shortcomings. It is our responsibility.

#### **d. Be Patient With Them All**

One of the important point is we need to be patient with everyone. Others being patient with us is not important but if we want to build someone's life, it is important for us to be patient. We need to be patient, give them the time and being so itself encourages and builds them. What if God loses His patience on us?

#### **e. See That No One Repays Anyone Evil For Evil**

If someone does evil to us, we need to take them into salvation. That's how we win over them. If we wish to travel with them in our life's journey, we should not repay evil for evil, according to what they have done. We try to repay more that we the other person had done. We are born to build others, for the Word says 'do good for those who do evil to you'. Do not do according to what others do you, for whatever we do, we do it for God and not man.

## **f. Seek To Do Good To One Another And To Everyone**

Always do good to one another and to everyone. Many a times, we think building others means being with them, travel along with them and thus build them. Instead, when we keep doing good to others, we keep building someone, always.

These six things help build others - admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all, see that no one repays anyone evil for evil, and seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

We unknowingly do evil in someone's life thinking we are doing good to them.

### **Illustration:**

A minister was full of energy and enthusiasm for the Lord. One day he went to the hospital to visit one of his parishioners who was critically ill. The minister entered the room and saw the man lying in bed with a whole host of tubes and wires attached to his body. Without any delay the minister strode to his bedside and began to exhort him to be of good cheer. Soon the man started to wave his arms. This encouraged the minister, and so he exhorted him more and more enthusiastically. Finally the minister ended with a rather lengthy prayer. At the final "Amen" the minister opened his eyes just in time to see the man reach for a pad of paper and a pencil. Quickly he wrote something and handed it to the minister. He looked at the pad and read these words: "You are standing on my oxygen tube and I am not able to breathe."

Sometimes it is easy to misread people's actions. Not all arm-waving is an expression of exuberance. Not all laughter is the laughter of happiness. Not all tears are tears of sorrow. Not all shouting is the shouting of triumph and victory. And not everyone who says, "Lord! Lord!" will enter the kingdom of God.

All these are to build others.

## **2. HOW ARE WE GOING TO BUILD OURSELVES**

How can we build ourselves? Especially during these tough times.

### ***1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:***

16 - Rejoice always;

17 - Pray without ceasing;

18 - In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Six points were mentioned to build others. To build ourselves, three points have been mentioned.

### **a. Rejoice Always**

It is very difficult to rejoice when we aren't sure whether we will have our jobs, what will happen the next day and whether our needs will be met or not. But that's what the Word says, 'rejoice always'. The happy news during this pandemic situation is that it has not affected you. It is around us but not on us. We may not have all that we want, but still we have what is needed right now, be happy about that, for when we are happy, people around us will also be happy.

A man who wanted to go to work, got up though he was not feeling well and went to work at 7am, but at 3pm he was laid off. He praised God. On his way back to home, he had a flat tire. He praised God. When he went into the trunk for the spare, it was flat too. He still praised God.

A man in a BMW pulled over, he asked for a ride and this man got in. While they had a chat, and the man who came in the car offered him a job with a better salary and he had to go to work from the next day.

He was happy at all times. Our happiness is not because of what we have but it is because of His presence, for He never leaves us. His promises never change; His presence does not leave us. Whether I have or not, I will rejoice for God is always with me.

### **b. Pray Without Ceasing**

Does that mean that we need to keep praying 24 hours? It doesn't mean we need to keep praying every waking moment but to have a constant communication with our Lord. Conversing with God continually. During this lockdown, we pray for many hours, but what will happen when we get back to work. Will we continue to pray for the same number of hours? It means I will pray for all that I see and hear. Pray for people whom you see, about whom you hear. Our prayers should be frequent and persistent

### **c. Give Thanks In Everything**

It means that we need to thank God in everything and for everything. For God's word says, this is what is God's will for you and for me. In every situation we need to thank our sovereign and good God and Saviour. This is how we build ourselves.

Six to build others and three to build ourselves.

### ***A story - 10TH APPLE EFFECT***

A hunter once lost his way deep inside the jungle while chasing a deer. He used all his navigation skills but neither did he find any way out of the jungle nor could he find any food to eat for 3 days at a stretch. He started feeling so damn hungry that he could eat an entire elephant at one go. Disappointed, he lost all hope. And that is exactly when an apple tree caught his sight. He collected a dozen apples to feed him for the rest of his search.

As he ate the 1st apple, his joy knew no bounds and he just couldn't stop feeling grateful and blessed. He thanked life. He thanked God. He could not believe his luck when he ate the first apple and thanked God as he was eating. Had the second, third and the fourth. As he started to have the fifth apple, he started thinking that it doesn't taste that good. And he started to compare as he had the sixth and the rest and as he was eating the tenth apple, he did not have the joy and happiness that he had when he ate the first one. He just could not enjoy the 10th apple.

The hunter represents us. And the apple represents the gifts that life gives us. The 10th apple represents our lack of gratitude for these gifts of life and our 'take everything for granted' attitude. As we continue receiving the gifts of life, our hunger, our greed keeps increasing and the joy we get from these gifts diminishes.

Thanking God in all circumstances is the will the God.

### **CONCLUSION:**

He breaks us to build us. When we are being built and established, we have to make sure that we don't destroy others. Only thing that matters when to go to eternity is – how many people's lives were built by

you. Are we building our families, our children. Doesn't matter is we are broken, for He will build us. And we need to build others.

