

Truth and Spirit Ministries

Unless The Lord Builds The House 04-25-2007

By Denise Bostic

Many Churches today have drifted away from the Lord's original purpose. The dynamic Church we read about in the Book of Acts is very different from the religion of modern day man. Even though this may be the case, there is a fresh wind blowing on some in the Body of Christ. Many are weary of stale Church services that have no presence and power of the Lord's Spirit. There is a spiritual awakening going on among many in the Body of Christ; they are awaking to the fact that they have a divine purpose as children of God. These are no longer content to just be warming a pew on Sunday mornings and have a hunger for the reality of Christ. There are more and more withdrawing from such dead environments and are searching for the life, purpose and power of God. This is no wonder considering that many modern day Churches are far removed from what the Lord has designed them to be. There have been a lot of people leaving Churches that have no spiritual life or love and have often been branded as backsliders by their leaders and members. If you are one that falls into this category, take courage because God has an encouraging word for you. Many wonder why so many are leaving denominational institutions and ask, "What is wrong in the Church?" God has our answers.

Leaders and brethren that are so quick to judge others for leaving lifeless Churches do not realize that it is actually the Lord Himself that is leading the exodus of His people out of the bondage of religion in order to bring them into the living Church that He is building. God's people cannot walk as free sons in the liberty of the Spirit as long as they are slaves to religion. The Lord is delivering many in His Church today from the bondage of religion and tradition, much like He delivered Israel from the bondage of Egyptian slavery thousands of years ago. He is separating a holy people unto Himself in order to glorify His name and fulfill the purpose of His Kingdom in the earth. If God's people are enslaved to legalism and tradition, they are not free to serve the Lord in the liberty of His Spirit. Therefore, the Lord must deliver His people from that which enslaves them.

Much of what we see today is not what the Lord is building, but what man has built. Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (*Matthew 16:18*) Jesus said He would build the Church. Although leaders and members are laborers together with God, there is a difference between the House that the Lord is building and the houses that men are trying to build for the Lord through their religion and tradition. (*Matthew 15:1-9, I Corinthians 3:5-15, 14:3,26*)

In order for the Church to be effective, we must follow God's blueprints for His building-the Church. The Lord can only build us according to His plan as we yield to Him and His workmanship. (*Ephesians 2:8-10*) God has designed each believer to function as He wills and more important, He places each member in the Body where it pleases Him. (*I Corinthians 12:18*) The Lord wants to be Lord in His Church. We can only be what He wants us to be by hearing, obeying and following His Spirit.

There are many today that actually hinder the Lord working in and through His Church because they are building with their own plans instead of the Lord's. There is the work led by man and then there is the work led by the power of the Holy Spirit. We must follow the Spirit, who knows the ways of the Lord, if we are to be effective, both within the Church and when we take the

Gospel of the Kingdom to the world. Our dependency needs to be on the Lord and His Spirit if we are to effectively fulfill the Great Commission that He has given us to do.

King David understood where our dependency lay when he was inspired by the Spirit to write, "Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders toil in vain." (*Psalms 127:1*) Those of us in the Church today should receive this wisdom and let the Master Carpenter build according to His eternal plan. Only those things that come from God will survive the fire of His testing. (*1 Corinthians 3:9-15*) God forbid that we should be a part of the houses that the flesh of man is building, but instead, we should be a part of the House the Lord is building. We are His House for the scriptures declare, "And we Christians are God's House- He lives in us! If we keep up our courage firm to the end, and our joy and our trust in the Lord." (*Hebrews 3:6 The Living Bible*) Amen to that!