

(re)BUILD | PART 3

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"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." 28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.' (Matthew 7:24-29, NIV).

"Whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your FAITH IS TESTED, your endurance has a chance to grow. So LET IT GROW, for when it is fully developed you will be STRONG IN CHARACTER and ready for anything!" James 1:2-4 (NLT)

We have looked at two teaching stories from the bible.
Elijah rebuilds an altar.
And David longs to build God a house of worship.

Two great lessons: 1.) God will not build for us an altar. 2.) Worship is from the heart.

Today: We are builders – God is our foundation.

You are building. Everyday. Choices. Actions. Attitude. What this feels like is overcoming, trying again, repenting, starting over. This is all the building of character.

But building can be difficult. There are certain circumstances that test us. That make us answer the question of "Who We Are."

1ST TEST: A DIFFICULT NEW TASK (WHAT LORD?)

"It was by faith that Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about something that had never happened before." Hebrews 11:7 (NLT)

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain OF WHAT we do not see." Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

FAITH IS FACING THE FUTURE WITHOUT KNOWING **WHAT?**

2ND TEST: A MAJOR CHANGE (WHERE LORD?)

"It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went WITHOUT KNOWING WHERE HE WAS GOING." Hebrews 11:8-10 (NLT)

FAITH IS FOLLOWING GOD'S LEADING WITHOUT KNOWING **WHERE?**

3RD TEST: A DELAYED PROMISE (WHEN LORD?)

"Even after Abraham reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, LIVING IN A TENT AND SO DID ISAAC AND JACOB, to whom God gave the SAME PROMISE. Abraham did this because he was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God." Hebrews 11:8-10 (NLT)

FAITH IS WAITING FOR GOD'S TIMING WITHOUT KNOWING **WHEN?**

4TH TEST: AN UNSOLVABLE PROBLEM (HOW LORD?)

"It was by faith that Sarah together with Abraham was ABLE TO HAVE A CHILD, even though they were too old and Sarah was barren. Abraham believed that God would keep his promise. And so a whole nation came from this one man, Abraham, who was too old to have any children—a nation with so many people that they'd be like the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore." Hebrews 11:11-12 (NLT)

FAITH IS EXPECTING A MIRACLE WITHOUT KNOWING **HOW?**

5TH TEST: A SENSELESS LOSS (WHY LORD?)

"It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was READY TO SACRIFICE his only son, Isaac, even though God had promised him, 'Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted.'" Hebrews 11:17-18 (NLT)

"Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death!" Hebrews 11:19 (NIV)

FAITH IS TRUSTING GOD'S PURPOSE WITHOUT KNOWING **WHY?**

6TH TEST: A PROLONGED PAIN (HOW LONG LORD?)

"By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Instead HE CHOSE TO SUFFER with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was LOOKING AHEAD to his reward." Hebrews 11:24-26 (NIV)

FAITH IS PERSISTING THROUGH PAIN WITHOUT KNOWING **HOW LONG?**

"It was by faith that Moses left Egypt unafraid of Pharaoh's anger; Moses held to his purpose because he could SEE HIM who is invisible." Hebrews 11:27