

February 9, 2020

“Building Blocks for Life:  
Adding to Your Spiritual Journey”

“Building Blocks:

Result...Be Blessed” Core 18

*“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:11-12*

**A. Building blocks in our spiritual journey...**

*“Anyone who listens to My teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.” Matthew 7:24*

1. The foundational block is our Cornerstone!

*“The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.” Psalm 118:22*

2. To discover the pathway God has for us, we need His wisdom.

*“Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.” Proverbs 1:7*

3. To grasp the significance of our relationship to Christ, we need to understand His atonement for us.

*“But He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.” Isaiah 53:5*

4. To grow in our new relationship, we need to receive the New Covenant and our Mediator!

*“But this is the new covenant...I will put My instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people...And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.” Jeremiah 31:33-34*

5. Jesus’ title that He most used, Son of Man, helps us to understand His great love for us.

*“As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into His presence.” Daniel 7:13*

6. And the result of following His commands is a blessed life!

*“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are My followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.” Matthew 5:11-12*

**B. To be blessed...**

*“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.” Ephesians 1:3*

1. Blessings in Christ are both present and future. For example, the Beatitudes begin and end with present blessings where 2-7 are future promises.
2. All of God’s blessings are contingent upon an action on our part. His blessings are the same as His promises. “If you...then I will.”
3. The Sermon on the Mount is the longest sermon on record with 111 verses in Matthew 5-7.
4. The entire message was counterculture and shared with both His disciples and the crowds that followed.
5. This same teacher healed the sick, cast out demons, and calmed the storm. This message was given to teach the gospel of the Kingdom! Jesus asserted His words above Moses and from God.

*“When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, for He taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.” Matthew 7:28-29*

**C. The ‘Be Attitudes’...**

*“You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.” Philippians 2:5*

*“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for Him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.” Matthew 5:3*

1. God blesses those who realize their complete dependence on God. Seeing ourselves honestly before God. The blessing is the Kingdom of Heaven.

*“God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Matthew 5:4*

2. God blesses those who honestly see their need for God and have sorrow for their sin. We must have a clear and decisive change in our lives by understanding repentance. The blessing is comfort!

*“God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.” Matthew 5:5*

3. God blesses those who trust Him, commit their way to Him, and wait on Him. Our attitude cannot be defensive or vengeful. The blessing is earth ownership!

*“God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.” Matthew 5:6*

4. God blesses those who have a longing and desire to be more like Jesus. This hunger and thirst drives them to want the other attitudes. The blessing is a satisfied life.

*“God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” Matthew 5:7*

5. God blesses those who show mercy to others. Mercy sees distress, feels compassion, and puts into action that heart for change, no matter who the person is! The blessing is you will in turn receive mercy.

*“God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.” Matthew 5:8*

6. God blesses those who have a pure heart. A pure heart sees life through the lens of Jesus! The blessing is that you will have a vision of God.

*“God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.” Matthew 5:9*

7. God blesses those who are peacemakers. A peacemaker is not seeking to stir up or invite trouble, but rather seeks to bring reconciliation and peace. Peace is not always attainable but as Romans 12:18 says, *“Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.”* Peace does not mean compromising our biblical values. The blessing is an awesome title!

*“God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.” Matthew 5:10*

8. God blesses those who suffer for His sake. A promise of deliverance is not necessarily given, but a life for eternity with treasures in heaven is promised. (Every 6 minutes, someone in the world is giving their life for Christ! 900,000 in the last decade...90,000 every year!)

**D. What attitude will you have?**

1. A complete dependency on God?
2. A sorrow for my sin...enough to quit?
3. A humility before God and others?
4. A hunger and thirst to be like Jesus?
5. A heart to show mercy to those I disagree with or who have hurt me?
6. A pure heart to see the world like Jesus?
7. A desire to be a greater peacemaker in a very divided world?
8. A willingness to stand for the right, even if it costs me?

*“You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.” Philippians 2:5*