



ARE YOU OUT OF MINISTRY SPACE? GOD SAYS TO “ARISE AND BUILD”

By: Thomas H Walker

Jesus told His Disciples to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” Matthew 28:19. This verse is known as the Great Commission, and is God’s way of reproducing His children and replenishing His Kingdom through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the Garden of Eden God told Adam and Eve to “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it” Genesis 1:28. God’s command to Adam and Eve to multiply is in essence the same command to Christians today which we call the Great Commission. Preaching the Good News enables the Holy Ghost to begin His work of reaching the lost. God intends to grow His kingdom not only spiritually but physically.

It has been said that the real sanctuary is not the area with the pews, but the people sitting in the pews. However, there is a physical reality to growing the Kingdom. Christ attracted His potential converts by appealing first to their physical needs by healing and feeding them. Church growth can be simply explained as meeting the needs of the community. The more needs a ministry meets, the more people they will draw.

Church leaders know the impact that their facility has on the physical growth of their ministry. Only if there is adequate room can their ministry grow. However, if the facility has reached maximum capacity and rooms, halls and parking are overcrowded, membership will start to decline. For there to be spiritual growth there must first be physical growth.

God's command to "arise and build" is His acknowledgement that church facilities are a powerful tool to reach the lost and to feed His disciples. God knew the powerful significance of a building and is why careful attention to detail was given to the builders of Solomon's Temple. God also knew that not just anyone is qualified to build. Even the "Apple of His eye" – King David, was not allowed to build the Temple. The building of a church facility is a ministry that should be under the care and control of a Christian firm that specializes in church construction. It is so much more than just a building project.

It is important that the building team be mindful that the enemy will attack the church's leaders, congregation and the firm they hired. Anyone unaware of this will make Satan's job easier as he "creep[s] in unawares" dividing and pitting each other against themselves. Lacking this understanding of Satan's tactics gives the enemy a foothold that gives him greater access to do more damage. Satan's plan is to divide the ministry before they have a chance to draw one line in design or dig one shovel of dirt in construction.

Understand that it is more than constructing a facility; it is building a tool to reach the lost. The reality of building a church facility is not to have a new building, but to be able to preach the good news about Jesus and have a gathering place to make these converts into disciples.

What I am saying is analogous to the adage, "People buy a drill bit not because they want a bit, but because they want a hole."



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