

Title: Building Your Life on Christ: Moving Beyond Spiritual Infancy

Sermon Summary:

This sermon challenges believers to examine the foundation of their spiritual lives and consider whether they are truly building on Christ or merely going through religious motions. Using the metaphor of building blocks and the impossibility of constructing anything stable on shag carpet, the pastor emphasizes that many Christians remain spiritual infants, saved but not growing. The message calls for deeper love and passion for Christ, warning against worldly preoccupations that distract from genuine relationship with God. Drawing from Paul's letter to the Corinthians, the sermon stresses that Christ must be our foundation, and what we build upon Him—whether gold, silver, and precious stones, or wood, hay, and straw—will be tested by fire. The ultimate challenge is to move from mere belief to passionate love for Christ, allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal God's purposes and using our lives to serve others and build His kingdom.

Key Points:

- Many Christians remain spiritual infants, saved but not growing in their faith
- We often build our lives on unstable foundations (worldly concerns, distractions) rather than on Christ
- True Christianity requires more than salvation—it demands relationship and growth
- We are preoccupied with worldly matters (news, politics, celebrities) rather than knowing Jesus deeply
- God has secret purposes for those who love Him that no eye has seen or ear has heard
- The Holy Spirit reveals deep things of God to those who pay attention
- Each believer will be rewarded based on what they build on the foundation of Christ
- Our work will be tested by fire—only what's done for Christ will remain
- We must deny ourselves daily, which requires first knowing who we are
- Love for Christ should be our primary motivator, not duty or obligation

- We take God for granted when we don't pay attention to Him
- Ministry and service aren't burdens but opportunities to experience God's blessing
- The greatest things we can take to heaven are people, especially our children

Scripture Reference:

- 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 (God's secret wisdom and what He has prepared for those who love Him)
- 1 Corinthians 3:1-15 (spiritual infancy, building on Christ as foundation, testing by fire)
- Matthew 24 (love growing cold in the last days)
- 2 Timothy 3 (characteristics of the last days, lovers of self rather than lovers of God)
- John 14-15 (the Holy Spirit leading into all truth)
- Parable of the Talents (servants investing what was given to them)

Stories:

- Personal testimony about selling ladies' shoes despite hating feet, illustrating the difference between human salesmanship and genuine Spirit-led ministry
- Story of a friend from 30 years ago who approached the pastor wanting to be baptized, demonstrating how seeds planted long ago can eventually bear fruit
- Illustration about shag carpet from the 1960s-70s and the impossibility of building anything stable on such an unstable surface
- Childhood memory of threatening his sister about getting her braces stuck in shag carpet
- Personal experience of God challenging him to identify who he really is before he could deny himself
- Reference to his wife Julie teaching him that "we take for granted if we don't pay attention"
- Testimony about wanting to be a lawyer but being called to ministry instead, with no regrets