

Title: Building Beyond Salvation: Living in the Grace of God

Sermon Summary: This sermon challenges believers to move beyond simply accepting salvation and to actively build their spiritual lives on the foundation of Christ. The pastor emphasizes that salvation is not a "one and done" transaction, but rather the beginning of a continuous journey of faith, obedience, and transformation. Using the metaphor of building blocks on different foundations, he illustrates how attempting to build a spiritual life on worldly foundations (symbolized by shag carpet) is unstable, while building on Christ and His teachings creates a solid, growing structure. The message stresses the importance of daily engagement with God's Word, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and allowing God to continually transform us rather than settling for minimal spiritual commitment. The sermon calls Christians to passionate, active faith that goes beyond mere church attendance to genuine relationship with God and service to others.

Key Points:

- Salvation is the starting point, not the finish line of Christian life
- Many Christians get saved but never experience the fullness of what God has for them
- The Word of God is living and active, not just a historical book to be read once
- Reading Scripture four or more times per week can be life-changing
- Faith comes from hearing God's Word and requires continuous confession and belief
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to speak boldly about Christ and live transformed lives
- Building a spiritual life requires ongoing obedience, not one-time commitment
- Christians should approach Scripture with childlike anticipation and openness
- God works all things to good, even when circumstances don't feel good
- Believers are called to run the race, not just stand at the starting blocks
- The Book of Acts demonstrates how Spirit-filled believers changed and adapted as they learned more truth
- Christians should be as passionate about their faith as they are about

worldly interests

- True spiritual growth requires dying to self and allowing God to activate new life within us

Scripture Reference:

- 1 Corinthians 2:9-16 (the mind of Christ through the Spirit)
- Hebrews 4:12 (the Word of God is living and active)
- Romans 10:8-17 (confession, belief, and faith comes by hearing)
- Acts 1:4-8 (waiting for the Holy Spirit)
- Acts 2:1-4 (Day of Pentecost and receiving the Holy Spirit)

Stories:

- Personal story about the pastor's sixth birthday when his grandfather surprised him with a pony, saddle, and bridle
- Parable of twin brothers on their birthday: the pessimistic boy received all his requested gifts while the optimistic boy found a barn full of manure but kept digging saying "with all this poop, there's gotta be a pony in here someplace"
- Illustration of shag carpet from the 1960s (Brady Bunch era) and how the pastor's grandfather thought it looked like a mess, comparing it to trying to build a spiritual life on unstable worldly foundations
- Reference to Job and how the enemy (Satan) never quits trying to steal, kill, and destroy
- Analogy of a runner getting to the starting blocks in the Olympics but not running when the gun goes off
- Story of a preacher explaining the word "politician": poly (many) + ticks (blood-sucking creatures) = many bloodsuckers
- Reference to Peter's denial of Jesus three times and how he needed to come back to Jesus to become the preacher in Acts
- Personal testimony about not liking doing ministry but being compelled by God's Word
- Illustration about going undercover and talking to people who don't like church, responding "me neither" to their dislike of certain church practices