

Perfecting Prayer: **Prayer and Godliness**

Are you a Builder or a Destroyer?

The Lord has called us to be builders and healers—not destroyers. My behavior, thoughts, attitudes, and motives can bring either:

destruction and wounding or
building and healing

Sin is the primary destroyer. Salvation and forgiveness bring ultimate healing. To become a ‘builder-healer’ I must learn to grow in Godliness and Jude explains how:

Growing in Godliness *Jude :20-21*

1. **Building (on) faith...**

...building core values on faith

Everything of value must be built on faith! *1 Samuel 26:24* uses a Hebrew word for “value” that means ‘to make large, to lift up, or to magnify.’

- What are the LARGE things in your life?
- What do you hold up and pursue most?
- What are you building on your faith? *2 Peter 1:5-8*

2. **Praying (in) the Holy Spirit...**

...building through the power of the Spirit

I can’t grow in God if I don’t live by the Spirit. ‘Praying in the Holy Spirit’ in this passage includes praying in one’s own language as prompted by the Holy Spirit (*Rom 8:15*), praying with “groanings which cannot be uttered” (*Rom 8:26*), and praying in a tongue unknown to the one praying (*1 Cor 14:4, 14*).

- Spirit filled building! *Exodus 31:1-5*
- Spiritual warfare and empowerment! *Eph 6:12*

3. **Keeping (in) the love of God...**

...building on God’s love

Loving God must be my most important ‘value.’ To be a builder I must be a lover of God and His love must flow through me.

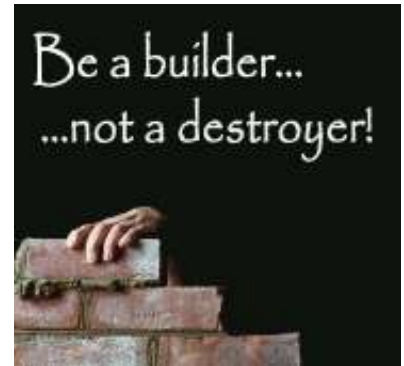
- Truth in love. *Eph 4:15-16*
- Love edifies [builds up]. *1 Cor 8:1*
- Abide in love. *John 15:9-10*

4. **Looking (for) mercy unto eternal life...**

...building for eternity

Our hope is built upon eternal consequences. This means I invest in eternal things rather than temporal (temporary) things. **Completing a project is not as important as being made complete in Christ!** *Phil 1:3-6*

- Labor that endures to everlasting life! *John 6:27*
- The fruit of the Spirit. *Gal 5:22-23*
- Gifts of the Spirit. *Rom 12:6-8; 1 Cor 12:4-11*



Jude 20-25

The Builder Grows

:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

:21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

The Builder’s Ministry

:22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction;

:23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

The Builder is Sustained by God

:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to pre-sent you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

:25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

Perfecting Prayer: **Prayer and Godliness**

Are you a Builder or a Destroyer?

Intro

Are you a builder or destroyer?

- I have an 18-month old grandson who is REALLY good at destroying things. He can take apart a house or room in no time.
- Many of us in this room have a similar history at 18 months.
- However it becomes a huge problem when we are still destroying things 18 years old, 28, 48, 68, 88...
- As we grow—we can moved from destroying our toys and a room to destroying:
 - relationships
 - love
 - finances
 - health
 - hope
 - and maybe destroying our life

It takes more time to build than to destroy: To build something takes

- Planning
- Time
- Resources
- Materials
- Concentration
- A blueprint
- Skill
- Determination

To destroy something...

- Can take only one swing of hammer
- One word spoken in anger and vengeance
- A single act of sin that violates a trust
- A reaction that should have never been
- A moment of unchecked rage
- A single broken promise

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***destruction and wounding or
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Sin is the primary destroyer. Salvation and forgiveness bring ultimate healing. To become a 'builder-healer' I must learn to grow in Godliness and Jude explains how:

Growing in God *Jude :20-21*

1. **Building (on) faith...** _____
...building core values on faith

David speaking to Saul

1Sa 26:24
And indeed,
as your life
was valued
much this
day in my
eyes, so let
my life be
valued much
in the eyes of
the LORD,
and let Him
deliver me
out of all
tribulation."

Everything of value must be built on faith! *1 Samuel 26:24* uses a Hebrew word for “value” that means ‘to make large, to lift up, or to magnify.’

- What are the LARGE things in your life?
- What do you hold up and pursue most?
- What are you building on you faith? 2 Peter 1:5-8

NKJV 2 Pe 1:5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 1:6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 1:7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 1:8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NLT 2Pe 1:5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 1:6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, 1:7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. 1:8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MSG 2Pe 1:5 So don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, 1:6 alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, 1:7 warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others. 1:8 With these qualities active and growing in your lives, no grass will grow under your feet, no day will pass without its reward as you mature in your experience of our Master Jesus.

***To be a
builder
rather than a
destroyer***
I MUST start
with FAITH...
I must build
on FAITH.

2. Praying (in) the Holy Spirit...

...building through the power of the Spirit

I can't grow in God if I don't live by the Spirit. Praying in the Holy Spirit in this passage includes praying in one's own language as prompted by the Holy Spirit (*Rom 8:15*), praying with "groanings which cannot be uttered" (*Rom 8:26*), and praying in a tongue unknown to the one praying (*1 Cor 14:4, 14*).

a. Spirit filled building! *Exodus 31:1-5*

b. Spiritual warfare and empowerment! *Eph 6:12*

Exo 31:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 31:2 "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 31:3 And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, 31:4 to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, 31:5 in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.

*To be a
builder
rather than a
destroyer*
I MUST build
in the power
of the HS
rather than
the power of
my personal-
ity, ability to
control,
natural skill,
education...

3. Keeping (in) the love of God...

...building on God's love

To love God must be my top 'value.' To be a builder I must be a lover of God and His love must flow through me.

a. Truth in love. *Eph 4:15-16*

b. Love edifies [builds up]. *1 Cor 8:1*

c. Abide in love. *John 15:9-10*

KEY THOUGHT:

Let **love of God** control knowledge! And everything else!

NKJV **1Co 8:1** Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

NLT **1Co 8:1** Now regarding your question about [fill in the blank] (food-or anything else) that has been offered to idols. **Yes, we know that "we all have knowledge" about this issue.** But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church.

*To be a
builder
rather than a
destroyer*
I MUST
make love of
God the mo-
tive for every-
thing I do.

**If it is not of
love—it is
not of God**

IOW—you may be right but there is a wrong way to do a right thing!

4. **Looking (for) mercy unto eternal life...**

...building for eternity

Our hope is built upon eternal consequences. This means I invest in eternal things rather than temporal (temporary) things. **Completing a project is not as important as being made complete in Christ!** *Phil 1:3-6*

a. Labor that endures to everlasting life! *John 6:27*

A. The fruit of the Spirit. *Gal 5:22-23*

c. Gifts of the Spirit. *Rom 12:6-8; 1 Cor 12:4-11*

Completing a project is NOT as important as being made complete in Christ.

Phi 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 1:4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 1:5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Joh 6:27 Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

*To be a
builder
rather than a
destroyer
I MUST build
an eternal
legacy.*

Mat 24:35
Heaven and
earth will
pass away,
but My words
will by no
means pass
away.

**The Builder is
Sustained by God**

Jud 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,
And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory
with exceeding joy, :25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise,
Be glory and majesty, dominion and power,
both now and forever. Amen.