
TALK IT OVER

Rebuilding the City of Your Soul

Building a Better Future - Part Two

Buddy Owens

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Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions in the message notes, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions towards the end of the document.

Message Notes

Talk It Over

May the God who gives us peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being — spirit, soul, and body — free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (TEV)

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.

1 Corinthians 10:11 (NIV)

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple, and that God's Spirit lives in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV)

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days, I set out by night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on. By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Serpent Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and re-entered through the Valley Gate. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work.

Nehemiah 2:11-16 (NIV)

• My God WORKS IN THE DARK.

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him — but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

1 Corinthians. 2:9-10 (NIV)

• **Comfort means to FORTIFY WITH RENEWED STRENGTH.**

You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and we will no longer be in disgrace....And they said, 'Let us rise up and build.' So they strengthened their hands for this good word. Nehemiah. 2:17-18 (NIV/KJV)

Question 1 In 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 we're told that "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him..." while Jeremiah 29:11 tells us that God has "plans to prosper you and not to harm you..." We grieve the Holy Spirit when we do not allow ourselves to be led by him and instead choose our own way. Cooperating with the Holy Spirit allows us to move toward the good plans that God has prepared for us. When we are going through dark nights of the soul, what assurance and comfort do we experience knowing that the Holy Spirit is working behind the scenes to restore and fortify us?

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• **I strengthen my hands by CONFESSING GOD'S WORD.**

'For I know the plans I have for YOU,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

In the City of the Soul...

• **The walls are built out of THE RUBBLE OF THE PAST.**

We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8:28 (NLT)

Question 2 Romans 8:28 tells us that God makes all things (good and bad) work together for our benefit. How does this truth change our perspective of the broken rubble in our lives and how does it give us hope for the future? What rubble and debris from the past year can be used to rebuild walls in the city of our souls or the church?

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• **The gates are built out of TIMBERS OF TRUTH.**

"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32 (NIV)

Truths to Build Your Life On

Lie: You're worthless.

Truth: *Jesus loves me and gave his life for me.*

Galatians 2:20b

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Lie: You're unforgivable.

Truth: *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* 1 John 1:9

Lie: You will always be this way.

Truth: *Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!* 2 Corinthians 5:17

Lie: Who do you think you are?

Truth: *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!* 1 John 3:1

Lie: It's hopeless.

Truth: *He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.* Philippians 1:6

Lie: You're useless.

Truth: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* Philippians 4:13

Lie: God doesn't love you.

Truth: *"I will never leave you, I will never abandon you."* Hebrews 13:5b

Lie: God doesn't care.

Truth: *Cast all your care upon him for he cares for you.* 1 Peter 5:7

Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:5b (NIV)

• If it doesn't stand **TRUE**, don't let it **THROUGH**.

Question 3 The common lies from the enemy of our souls directly impacts how we think of ourselves. How do timbers of truth from God's word help defeat lies that come to the gateways of our souls?

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• God will not **DO IT WITHOUT ME**; I cannot **DO IT WITHOUT HIM**.

May God himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together — spirit, soul, and body — and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it! 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (MES)

Question 4 Why does God invite us to partner with him to rise up and build?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they felt and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message!

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1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

Small Group Actions Steps

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