

41 Years Building Indestructible Believers

Text: **Matthew 16:18 (NLT)** *Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell* will not conquer it.* ¹⁹ *And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid* on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit* on earth will be permitted in heaven."*

Introduction: As we celebrate 41 years of Victory, it is imperative for us to know what Jesus is building. As your Pastor I am instructed to see these three unalterable truths are anchored in your life.

1. Jesus is the only foundation
2. Through Jesus we are never defeated
3. Every believer is a worker building His Church

1. Jesus is the only foundation

1 Corinthians 3:9 (NLT) *For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.* ¹⁰ *Because of God's grace to me, **I have laid the foundation like an expert builder.*** Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. ¹¹ **For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.** ¹² *Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw.* ¹³ *But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value.* ¹⁴ *If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward.* ¹⁵ *But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.*

- Every promise makes us partake of His Nature

2 Peter 1:4 *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: **that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature,*** having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Corinthians 1:18 (NLT) *As surely as God is faithful, our word to you does not waver between "Yes" and "No."* ¹⁹ *For Jesus Christ, the Son of God, does not waver between "Yes" and "No." He is the one whom Silas,[a] Timothy, and I preached to you, and as God's ultimate "Yes," he always does what he says.* ²⁰ *For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.* ²¹ *It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us,* ²² *and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.*

2. Through Jesus we are never defeated

Matthew 16:18 *Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), * and upon this rock **I will build my church, and all the powers of hell* will not conquer it.*** ¹⁹ *And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid* on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit* on earth will be permitted in heaven."*

2 Corinthians 10:4 *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but **mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;**)* ⁵ *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

- Daily conflicts shall not defeat you!

2 Corinthians 4:15 (NLT) *All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory. ¹⁶ That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. ¹⁷ **For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!** ¹⁸ **So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.***

3. Every believer is a worker building His Church

Ephesians 4:10 (NLT) *And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself. ¹¹ Now **these are the gifts Christ gave to the church:** the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² **Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.** ¹³ **This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.** ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ **He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.***

Worship God through your First-Fruits, Tithes and Sacrifices:

Malachi 3:10 *Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. ¹¹ And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. ¹² And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.*