



SECTION I – LESSON #4

SUMMARY:

This lesson is designed to show that the success of any business or organization is dependent upon the degree to which it is founded on the Word of God and constructed in accordance with the patterns for building articulated therein.

MAIN LESSON IDEAS:

- A wholistic building pattern in God is found in the twelve principles of building foundations.
- These twelve building principles can hold us accountable to God both in terms of our motives and the concepts we use to build.

Building Organizations on God’s Word and God’s Pattern

by Dennis Peacocke

- I. In this lesson we will concentrate on reiterating and “drilling deeper,” in terms of helping you to know, on a deeper level, some of the major building principles in God we must use in building our whole lives, not just our workplace ministries.
 - A. We must be clear that we are after wholism in our worldview and life, eradicating both dualism or spiritual compartmentalization.
 1. All of these twelve principles apply across the board to our families, etc.
 2. All of them form the foundations of all truly successful organizations.
 - B. The twelve foundation stones will be broken out into two general groupings. All of them are inter-related for both individuals and organizations:

Internal motivation and faith issues	Strategic “blueprint” issues
1. Our motives	7. The Word as the measuring line
2. Our faith	8. The Trinity as our building pattern
3. Our knowledge source	9. God’s design for this “building” as our intentional pattern
4. Our prayer base	10. Relationships as our foundations
5. Our applied engiftment	11. Functioning biblical authority as our cohesion
6. Our willingness to take responsibility	12. Appropriate communication as our point of honor

II. Let us now begin our survey of these twelve foundational building stones.

A. God must deal with our motives so as to align them with His.

1. Square one is obviously dealing with our hearts.
2. Are you building for the glory of God or the glory of self and man?
(Gen. 11:4)
Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the whole earth."
3. What are our ego needs and to whom in our lives are we accountable that the Holy Spirit can use to help sort them out?
4. What kind of internal "demand" do we experience when we touch this project, and where is it coming from?
5. Conversely, if we are unmotivated or careless about something or someone, why is that, and what must we take before God?
6. How are we doing on the need to be "creative or an individual who is self-developing"? Jesus is not concerned with being either a "self-made man" or "creative." He is concerned with building His life, other people, and Father's Kingdom on the exact pattern He sees Father using.

John 5:17

Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I, too, am working."

John 5:19

Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing because whatever the Father does, the Son also does."

John 5:30

"By Myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and My judgment is just, for I seek not to please Myself but Him who sent Me."

7. Where are we on the "mammon" issues that Earl Pitts addresses with such profundity?
 8. There is much that God's Spirit calls us to. Remember our priesthood before God is staying open to His examining probes and our willingness to be transformed!
- B. God challenges us to live and work out of faith, not greed, need, fear, or fatalistic duty.
1. There are three different Greek words translated "faith" in the New Testament. Saving faith is the word "pistis," and it literally means to be fully persuaded by a

person or concept. A good example is the Niagara Falls tightrope walker.

2. Therefore, “faith” that saves is relational in its nature and application, in terms of our personal relationship with Christ. We must believe and practice that God made us for Himself, to further His goals, and that He works through us. Nothing else will bring us life.
3. Since it is impossible to please God without faith (Heb. 11:6), we must live in it (John 15:10) and by it. There is also a conceptual dimension to faith as a conviction or perception.
4. “Reality” exists, but “truth” is God’s declaration concerning why and what the fact of reality means. Faith is believing in God’s declarations, even if we cannot see or understand them yet.
5. Truth has axioms and derivative corollaries; faith sees and applies them. This requires an active “knowing,” which puts “the plug in the sink.”
6. Faith is the currency of transformation. It requires knowledge, obedience, and patience.
7. Faith operates through our presuppositions, relational ethics, and, as stated above, produces personal and organizational transformation. Mind pictures--> relational practices--> people and personal discipline skills.
8. We can and do create, in us and around us, an atmosphere of faith or unbelief.
9. I strongly recommend that you get the “Faith Series” and listen to it carefully.
10. The executional dimension of how we apply our faith in life. Biblical faith is applied rather than just believed-to-be-true intellectually.
 - a. Dualism (spirit-matter divorce) separates our “spiritual faith” from our occupational reality (living in the real world). True Christianity is for the whole life.
 - b. Building our business or careers on faith requires that we are in faith all day long!
11. We must apply our faith relationally.
 - a. Are we building our career as a partnership with God to first glorify Him and spread His Kingdom? Who owns your business or ministry?
 - b. Are we building covenantally in the core of our team of “sons” (1 Cor. 12:12, 18)?
 - c. Are we taking a pastoral heart position toward those with whom we labor?

- d. We must apply our faith revelationally and conceptually and ask these questions:
 - What is our ultimate measuring rod: reason (sense, knowledge) or revelation (God's Word and principles)?
 - Are we working to free ourselves from Pharaoh's conventional wisdom and apply a Christian worldview at work? Do your ethics reflect God's?
 - e. We must apply our faith executionally and remember that God operates redemptively: He buys back and uses what was "wasted." Do you seek opportunities to use "wasted people" or ideas that others have discarded? Remember God's pattern of the cross and use it at work.
- C. What is our knowledge source?
1. As discussed in the series, "Worldview for the Marketplace, having a biblical base to our worldview is non-optional.
 2. We must, especially in business, where "conventional wisdom" is so prevalent, ask ourselves: Am I building from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or from the tree of life? We will continue this throughout the course.
- D. What is our prayer base for building?
1. Where are our spouse and children in the prayer base?
 2. Where are our spiritual authorities and those to whom we are accountable in this prayer base?
 3. As we go through this course together, the issue of prayer bases will come up repeatedly, especially in the teaching on "Business Prayers God Will Answer."
- E. How are you applying your natural and spiritual gifts in building this organization, and are you encouraging others to do so as well?
- F. Further issues of faith in the marketplace concerning the release of our gifts.
1. Are you called to your work by God as a ministry, or is it "just your job" that you are doing to make money to support your life and family?
 2. Have you been commissioned to do it?
 3. Do you read God's Word for your ministry?
 4. Do you exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit on your job?
 - The word of wisdom: Do you ask the Holy Spirit about your decisions?

- The word of knowledge: Do you ask God to reveal the real issues and motives?
 - Faith: Do you hold to truth or secular opinions?
 - The gift of healing: Do you ever ask to pray for sick or hurting co-workers?
 - Miracles: Do you speak faith in God to your co-workers?
 - Prophecy: Do you ever prophesy at work through the wisdom you share?
 - The discerning of spirits: Do you discern spirits and take authority over them?
 - Tongues: Do you pray in the Spirit at work?
 - Interpretation of tongues: Do you ask God for understanding or an interpretation when you silently pray in tongues at work
5. Do you display the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control?
 6. Do you uphold spiritual authority where you work (Luke 7:1-10; the Centurion)?
 7. Do you ever worship the Lord quietly to yourself at work?
 8. Remember, Joseph and Daniel ruled national economies using some of these gifts!
- G. Are we willing to take personal responsibility for our actions?
1. The "blame game" is king in many organizations. Where are you in refusing to use it and calling it to the attention of others?
 2. Scripture says, "For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything" (Heb. 3:4).
 3. What "house" is God using you to help build?
 - What people?
 - What projects?
 - What organizations?
- H. Is the Word of God your measuring line?
1. We all know we should use the Word as our source of measuring all things, the question is do we?
 2. With the Holy Spirit as our interpreter, both the Old and New Testaments are filled with marketplace applications.
 3. Remember also that the Book of Proverbs serves us all well as a kind of "ruler's handbook."

- I. As we saw in "Worldview for the Marketplace," the Trinity must be our building pattern or general "blueprint."
 1. We have no permission from God, as His followers, to build any other way than the way He builds.
 2. The following scriptures make this clear:

Exodus 23:9
"Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you."

Hebrews 8:3-5
Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."
 3. As builders of people and things, we must build –
 - a. Upon God's Word
 - b. God's way
 - c. In God's timing
 - d. Using the people and resources that God, not self, provides.
 4. Jesus built through and commissioned us to "make disciples" (Matt. 28:18-20), and even at work, this opportunity is there waiting for us.
 - a. We need to learn how to recognize potential disciples where we work.
 - b. We need to know how to train them biblically as people and co-workers.
 - c. We need to guide them toward Christ, as they are willing.
 - d. We need to learn how to build climates of discipline (learning atmospheres) in our divisions, companies, and all areas of personal responsibility. Jesus is our pattern in all of this.
 5. The Godhead is our ultimate pattern for building. The relationship between the members of the Godhead reveals three major components essential to our "pattern" for building:
 - a. Executive authority: The Father (1 Cor. 11:1-3)

- b. Division of labor: The Son and Holy Spirit's roles (John 14; 16:7-17,23,26)
 - c. Corporeity: "Let us" (Gen. 1:26)
6. One of the key questions we must ask God in building anything is: Do we have a "building permit" from God to do it?

2 Cor. 10: 13-16—

We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you. We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ. Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in another man's territory.

- J. God's design for the building (person, organization), not our design, must be our intentional pattern.
 - 1. God is primarily concerned with developing people; He does this through those who have the power to "employ people" with either:
 - a. Vision for a cause (Prov. 29:18); vision for their life ("fishers of men" Matt. 4:19); vision for justice and righteousness (Psa. 94:16).
 - b. Vision for the self-respect and the fulfillment found in work (a God-ordained instinct in all healthy humans). Matthew 20:1-16 is a classic revelation of God's heart for man's self-respect.
 - 2. "Hiring men and women" means engaging them in the process of discovering, developing, and applying their God-given gifts and talents.
 - a. Mentoring gives people new knowledge, demonstrated technique, feedback, and accountability.
 - b. Pastoring gives support and encouragement and helps remove the sin and immaturity creating blockages in their lives.
 - c. Discipling is a combination of both mentoring and pastoring.
 - 3. In caring for people on God's behalf, we must be very, very careful not to play God or make them into someone or something that serves our needs or desires rather than what Father has made them to be.
 - a. God does not want us "gene-splicing" people or organizations. We must attempt to correctly discern their fundamental and ordained nature.

b. To "re-design" something apart from God is to play God!

K. Relationships must be our relational priority.

1. God, as we have seen, is in the people development business; therefore, we must be also.
2. God builds relationally.

L. Functioning biblical authority will act in God as our cohesion, that is, the power that unifies our efforts.

1. Authority holds people and organizations together if it is properly functioning.
2. We must exercise our authority in a humble, firm, God-driven manner and support God's authority in others.

M. We must practice appropriate communication as our point of honoring those with whom we work.

1. The scriptures are filled with admonitions relative to the power of our speech. Godly speech that speaks the truth in love (Eph. 4:15) but seeks to honor all men is our goal.
2. One of our skills must be the ability to use biblical speech and concepts with non-believers in such a way that they see and hear the truth, not religious jargon or simply "bible verses." If we can't express a biblical truth in secular language, we probably don't understand it deeply enough yet.

III. How might we define a "Christian business"?

- Our Working Model Definition:
A Christian business is a commercial enterprise that consistently serves its customers, suppliers, and employees with monetary compensation, products, and services which bring value to their lives before God, applying biblical principles and ethics in such a way that God's Spirit has free access over the actions, operations, and profits of those who own and operate the organization.