



GOD'S CONSTRUCTION SITE

BRANDON SNOKE

There is something stirring in my mind that I would like to share. It is not complex, new or some deep thing.

First of all, I wish for all of God's people to realize just how important each member is. We are members of a body, a family that has by far the most interest, influence and authority in all creation.

In our natural lives we often measure by scale our success or position in society by our relative association with prominent, influential or powerful people or organizations. There was a commercial in the 80's for a financial institution that went like this, "When EF Hutton talks, people listen." It played into our need to have influence or to know someone with influence.

At work, when we look at a resume for a new hire, we look for past experience with companies that are respected for their expertise. We have a worker who once worked for SpaceX. I think it is cool that he met Elon Musk who is expected to become the world's first trillionaire and has built companies ranging from electric cars to space ships.

I offer the fact that each of us here, youngest to oldest, has rubbed shoulders with the most influential, powerful organization and leader, not only of the world, but all creation.

Consider This Conversation Between God and Job

"Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; For I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? Or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or who shut up the sea with doors, When it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof, And thick darkness a swaddling band for it, And brake up for it my decreed place, And set bars and doors, And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: And here shall thy proud waves be stayed?" (Job 38:1-11, KJV).

God said that Job was a perfect man, but a man nevertheless. This Creator, our God who spoke to Job, has the eminent power over his creation and created all things with a plan. This is the God, our God, who we serve and worship in an intimate way. We don't brag that we once saw Him walk down the factory floor at SpaceX and shook His hand, in fact we don't brag at all. We proclaim that we know our Lord and His Son Jesus our Savior in a close way, talking to Him everyday.

Our Lord whom we serve has power over all of man's governments, all nations, all CEO's, all mankind and the creation. How much more clout can you ask for than saying you know Jesus, the Son of God?

This is the cool part, God has a project he is working on that includes and requires our participation. This project is far bigger and more important than getting a presidential candidate to the White House or sending men to Mars, it is rivaled only by the event of creation itself.

God Is Building His Church

We may say, "He already has a church, several in fact." But He is still building His church!

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: for we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother; and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:22-32, KJV).

God Is Bringing Together His Church, From Other Parts

"As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (John 10:15-16, KJV).

Our Lord, who we know, has a plan that includes us and requires us to be responsible with the gifts and opportunities he has given us.

God Is Building A Kingdom

"And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; and should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come" (Mark 4:26-29, KJV).

God Needs Every Member

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: and those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: that there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way" (1 Corinthians 12:1-26, 28-31, KJV).

Whenever there is a construction project in this world, there is also on that construction site many materials, separated by item or type. For the foundation, material is excavated and sorted by size, sand here, gravel there, everything is sorted. The foundation is then first stabilized by specific size sand or gravel at just the right mixture and compacted. Next, cement is poured into forms. Cement is made of aggregate and minerals extracted from the soil and separated, then combined at just the right mixture.

The rest of a building is the same, you will see a pile of 2 x 4s here, plywood there, everything separated in their groups. Next, the builder constructs the house, using this material in the exact location indicated by the blueprint, combining all of the various materials to make a beautiful house.

God does similarly. He has various materials for His Church, various gifts and ministries, and He combines them to one day complete a beautiful house, the bride of Christ, without spot or

wrinkle. What God does differently than a man-made construction project, is that He leaves all the variety of material intermingled with one another. You will see in one family a nail and cement, in another family a sheet of plywood, gravel and 2 x 4's, all intermingled. He doesn't need to sort in nice neat piles. In fact, his piles can look a little messy, but He is the master builder with His blueprint memorized, and He will complete His work in a perfect way.

Amen ✝

CAST ALL YOUR ANXIETY ON HIM

PJ MATHEW

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7, NIV).

The Apostle Peter exhorts the universal church scattered throughout the then-known world to throw away all anxieties on Jesus Christ because he cares for you. *“You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon him, for you are his personal concern”* (1 Peter 5:7, PHILLIPS). This instruction is relevant and applicable even today in our lives. Anxiety is a feeling of worry, nervousness or unease typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome. It is very clear through our own experiences that anxieties have played a dominant role in weakening our faith as the children of God. Anxiety causes fear, doubt and diffidence in our spiritual and natural lives.. In this short meditation, we will analyze how we can treat anxiety from a biblical and spiritual perspective.

First of all, we have to unburden all our anxiety on Jesus Christ

In order to do that, we have to believe in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and trust that he has made us more than conquerors of all situations. *“Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, pain or persecution? Can lack of clothes and food, danger to life and limb, the threat of force of arms? Indeed some of us know the truth of that ancient text: For thy sake we are killed*

all the day long; We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter. No, in all these things we win an overwhelming victory through him who has proved his love for us” (Romans 8:35-37, PHILLIPS). All these things which the apostle Paul mentioned cause internal timidity and lead to a stressful life. However, again the apostle Paul encouraged us that our Lord Jesus has given us an overwhelming victory through His love. In Psalms we read, *“This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles”* (Psalm 34:6, NIV).

Secondly, seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness

Jesus taught this important truth to the people during the sermon on the Mount. A huge crowd was following him. (Matthew 5:1) Many of them were in need of physical necessities such as food and clothing and very anxious about their future life. Knowing the heart of the people, Jesus addressed their physical needs (see Matthew 6:25- 31). Jesus said, *“Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”* (Matthew 6:27, NIV). Clearly, Jesus exhorts the people about the negative impact of worrying. It achieves nothing but sorrow and depression. Worrying is not a positive confidence builder, instead it drains all your enthusiasm and leads to a gloomy outlook. Eventually, a worrier will always be unable to see the hand of God moving because of the thick veil of fear and nervousness covering

him or her. That's why Jesus taught his disciples not to worry over things because, *"the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own"* (Matthew 6:32-34, NIV). Worrying or being extremely anxious over something, gives a foothold for the enemy to exacerbate doubt and fear. Also, it makes us forget the goodness of the Lord in our lives.

Thirdly, put on Jesus' yoke and learn from him

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28, NIV). Jesus knew very well that the people of the time (Jews) were overburdened with the laws and regulations of the Torah. To the Jews, religion was a thing of endless rules. People lived in a forest of regulations which dictated every action. They must listen forever to a voice which says, "You shall not." The Torah identifies 613 commandments (mitzvot). The conditions of Sabbath rules, dietary laws, religious laws and the types of sacrifices were simply too much for the people to endure. It was very timely when Jesus gave this message of hope and deliverance to unburden the people from this legalism.

Temple worship, types of sacrifices, and different modes of offerings caused the people to be circumscribed to a huge fiscal burden which they could not carry by themselves. Even after having done all these rituals for the forgiveness of sins, it was only for a time. They had to repeat all over again, the following year. This was the backdrop of the conditions of Jewish people when Jesus invited them to come to Him so that He could give them rest (spiritual) from all the religious suppression of Judaism. The yoke of Jesus is easy and His burden is light (Matthew 11:30).

Fourthly, cast your cares on the Lord

"Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall" (Psalm 55:22, NIV). The psalmist, David, experienced trials and temptations throughout his lifetime. He is advising us to throw all our cares or worries on Him who sustains us in our life. David has often referred to God as his refuge and fortress. When enemies surrounded him, he would not be afraid but have confidence in the Lord. *"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust'"* (Psalms 91:1-2, NIV). David's words suggest that we must fully entrust all our worries, burdens or anxieties to God, rather than trying to carry them on ourselves. Regardless of the situation, God is more capable than any human being could ever be. David realized the victory when he released all his worries and fears into the care of the Lord. The weight of our anxieties is completely transferrable into His (Jesus') hands.

In conclusion, we live in a world of stress, worries and uncertainties. We are choked like the one who heard the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choked it, making it unfruitful (Matthew 13:22). It is characteristic of modern life that it becomes increasingly crowded and fast. We are too busy to pray and study the word of God. In the busy world that we are living in, we must not forget to pray both privately and at the family altar. One of the ways of reducing stress in our life is by spending some time each day in prayer and Bible study. That is how we can cast our burdens on the Lord. Jesus tells us to take his yoke us and He will help us carry the load. The burden will become light and easy when we are yoked with Him. *"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light"* (Matthew 11:30, NIV). †

GLOBAL MISSIONS INC.

Global Missions Inc. was founded in 1944, as a Christian mission to promote and encourage the preaching of the gospel to every creature.

Global Missions reaches into many countries in Africa, India, the Caribbean, the United States of America, South America and the Philippines. These local churches are established on the foundational truths revealed in God's word and through His unfolding revelation. Local churches are governed by local residents who are referred to as elders.

Global Missions is a nondenominational Christian church.

Headquarters:
802 Airport Road
North Battleford, SK S9A 2Z3 Canada

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 934
North Battleford, SK S9A 2Z3 Canada

Telephone:
(306) 445-2733

Email:
info@globalmissionsinc.org

Online:
www.globalmissionsinc.org

Traveling Ministry Contact List:
www.globalmissionsinc.org/about

SHARON STAR

The Sharon Star is a monthly publication and mailed as a free-will offering plan. The articles within are intended for inspiration and information to those who are interested in the unfolding revelation of the Word of God.

Published by:
Global Missions Inc. in North Battleford,
Saskatchewan, Canada.

The Sharon Star is found online at:
www.globalmissionsinc.org/sharon-star

Publications Mail Agreement 40012206

Subscribe by mail or online.