

Come And Join Us

We are like stones built together in a wall
Made up of whosoever the Master Builder calls
We are not worthy but together we are strong
Built on the Rock of Ages the wall is almost done

(Chorus)

Come and join us in the sunlight
You've been sittin' in the shade too long
Come and give us a chance to sing you a song
Come and join us in the sunlight
If you would reach you could touch the sky
Come and drink from the well that will never run dry

We are like stranger and pilgrims in this world
Lifting the blood stained banner our flag has been unfurled
We have a homeland no eyes have ever seen
But those who've gone before us whose souls have been redeemed

(Repeat Chorus)

We are like children held in the Father's hand
Growing into the image of Christ the Son of Man
We are not perfect but changing every day
Through trials and tribulation we'll find the perfect way

(Repeat Chorus)

We are like stones built together in a wall
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1 Peter 2:4-10 (NASB)

And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For this is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone," and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed. But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

Peter tells us here that Jesus Christ is the cornerstone (or foundation) that the Church is built upon. He goes on to compare us to "living stones" being built up as a spiritual house (the Church).

1 Corinthians 3:10-15 (NASB)

According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Paul tells us that we must take care when our time comes to build on that wall. It might be us just telling someone else about God or it might involve something more. No matter what it is we must do it right. First he tells us that we can build on no other foundation than that which is already laid which is Jesus. So we can't decide we have found a better way and start teaching that as the way to God. But even if we do build on the foundation of Jesus we must build in a way that is acceptable and good before God. In other words we have to build using truth not what we feel is right at the time.

1st Corinthians 1:26-29 (NASB)

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God. But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

Here Paul tells us that for the most part God didn't choose the wise, rich and the powerful to carry the Gospel to the world. However there are always a few in every generation. This is in line with what Jesus said when He said ***"It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."*** Instead He chose those who are willing to humble themselves before Him.

We are like stranger and pilgrims in this world
Lifting the blood stained banner our flag has been unfurled
We have a homeland no eyes have ever seen
But those who've gone before us whose souls have been redeemed

1 Peter 2:11-12 (NASB)

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Here Peter reminds us that this world is not our home. He reminds us to be on our best behavior so that others because of our good deeds might come to glorify God too.

1st Corinthians 1:22-24 (NASB)

For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

To the world our flag or banner that we follow is a man who was executed. It is a stumbling block to some, foolishness to others but the power of God to those who believe.

1 Corinthians 2:9 (KJV)

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Here Paul tells us that no eye has seen or could the human mind even comprehend what God has prepared for those who love Him.

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1st John 2: 5-6 (NASB)

but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

Ephesians 4:11-15 (NASB)

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

1st Corinthians 11:1 (NASB)

Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

Philippians 3:13 (NASB)

Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

In these verses John and Paul are telling us to constantly strive to become more like Jesus in our lives.

Romans 5:3-4 (NASB)

And not only this, but we also exult (rejoice) in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

This is a verse that most Christians, me included, would rather skip over. It is in these darkest times that people will do one of two things. They will run to God or from God. It is by running to God, admitting that we have nothing to offer, and depending upon Him to meet our needs that we learn to trust in Him.