

"Stay & Build vs. Go & Fill"

Wednesday Evening Adult Class by Ray Reynolds (September 11, 2013)

Introduction: **The Story** gives us a glimpse into the stories of the early Genesis account, but not all of the stories appear in the book. Therefore, in our time together tonight, I would like for us to consider a story between the stories. Remember that God commanded Noah's family to go out into the world so that they could be "*fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth*" (**Genesis 9:2**). Unfortunately, they decide to build the Tower of Babel (**Genesis 11:1-9**). When we look at the story of Babel we often see the negatives. Are there any new things we can learn from the story? Let's study together....

Discussion:

I. What did they do right?

- ✓ United in Communication (v.1)
- ✓ United in Direction (v.2)
- ✓ United in Vision (v.3)
- ✓ United in Exertion (v.3)
- ✓ United in Imagination (v.4)
- ✓ United in Realization (v.4)
- ✓ United in Execution (v.5)
- ✓ United in Contribution (v.5)
- ✓ United in Perception (v.6)
- ✓ United in Conclusion (v.6)

II. What did they do wrong?

- ✓ Lack of Liberality (**Galatians 5:1, 13**)
- ✓ Lack of Sincerity (**Galatians 6:1-2**)
- ✓ Lack of Objectivity (**Galatians 6:3-5**)
- ✓ Lack of Spirituality (**Galatians 6:7-10**)
- ✓ Lack of Humility (**James 4:6**)
- ✓ Lack of Conformity (**James 4:7**)
- ✓ Lack of Stability (**James 4:8**)
- ✓ Lack of Reliability (**James 4:9-10**)
- ✓ Lack of Dependability (**James 4:11-14**)
- ✓ Lack of Activity (**James 4:15-17**)

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III. What can we learn?

- ✓ History – History is cyclical and repeats itself.
How is it possible for this to happen in our own lives?

How is it possible for this to happen in the church?

- ✓ Satan – He also loves unity.
Why is Satan supportive of unity and division?

How can the Holy Spirit help us to combat this tactic?

- ✓ People – The world will do whatever it takes to exalt its own interests.
Why are Christians shocked when persecution comes their way?

If things are going good, are they really going good? Explain.

- ✓ God – He confuses those in error but rewards those who seek Him.
Would you consider most "Christians" to be gullible? Explain.

How can we establish a strong foundation that God approves?

- ✓ The church – The two paths of life are closer than we think and we have a choice.
Why do we seek to stay when we are called to go? Explain.

Why do we seek to build when we are called to fill? Explain.

Conclusion: What if we really took the path that God laid out in front of us? Are we letting God fulfill His will in our lives? God longs to intertwine the upper story with our lower story. What are we doing as a collective body? What if we really built and sustained the church that God designed in Acts? Are we building the church or the tower of Babel? Are you staying or are we going? Are we building or are we filling?