

“So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.”

Romans 14:19 (ESV)

BUILD



The Psalmist tells us that unless the Lord builds the house it is built in vain. The Apostle Paul also uses the analogy of building in his letters to early Christians. Somehow, the process of building seems to be a concrete way to help us understand the Christian walk and what should be happening with our faith.

To build a large apartment complex requires an intricate blueprint. Should those doing construction choose not to follow this guide,

the results would be disastrous—mismatched walls, a stair leading to nowhere and more. Through the working of the Holy Spirit we Christians have a blueprint for faith—God’s Holy Word, the Bible. God has provided it for us as a guide and help in our daily lives.

While the Holy Spirit works faith in us and helps keep us in the true faith, there is more to it than that. In our Scripture verse Paul uses the word “mutual.” This means both sides are working together to do the same thing so both parties benefit. As we seek to build up others in the faith, our own faith gains strength. There is no having one person better than another when it comes to belief in Christ as our Lord and Saviour. Our strong desire should be to be the Holy Spirit’s instrument to help others not only to come to faith, but also to live it abundantly.

Heavenly Father, work in my life that my own faith might be built up and that I can edify and encourage others in the faith as well. Amen.

How has the Holy Spirit built up and sustained your faith? How could you be an instrument to help someone else in your life grow in their relationship with Christ?

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.”

1 Corinthians 9:24 (ESV)

In our society today, we consider competition to be healthy. Having to develop strategies to better our rivals spurs us on to better products or greater results.

Paul uses the example of a race, something the Corinthians could understand, to show them how to live a life of faith. To win a physical race, one must go into training. A strong sense of purpose makes success much more likely.

It is difficult to run a race well if one isn't motivated. Just randomly running anywhere, without any sense of direction is pointless if the ultimate aim is to win.

It is one thing to want to win a race and another to actually do it. Strong competitors demand more of themselves with each practice, trying to gain the edge to be the victor of the race.

As Christians, we also need to challenge ourselves. God advises us to live our lives abundantly. A richly rewarding life doesn't just happen and is not bound by circumstances. With the Holy Spirit working in us we can have renewal in all parts of our lives – spiritual, physical, and emotional.

We should never come to a place where we are satisfied with our Christian walk. Every day we should be asking the Holy Spirit to show us new ways to grow and learn. Without this ongoing challenge to ourselves, our faith life can grow weak and the race will be more difficult.

Dear Heavenly Father, inspire me to greater heights through the work of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Where can you challenge yourself today in your faith walk? To what goals do you believe the Holy Spirit is leading you?



CHALLENGE