

Rebuilding

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Psalm 127:1

- If building the house is God's job, what's our job?

Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: believe in the one he has sent." John 6:29

- If I believed, what would be my next right step?

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. Romans 12:1–2, The Message

- How do I place my life before God as an offering?

Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. "If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you." John 8:32

- Is God going to ask more of me than I can deliver?

"Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can't believe that, believe what you see – these works. The person who trusts me will not only do what I'm doing but even greater things, because I, on my way to the Father, am giving you the same work to do that I've been doing...A loveless world," said Jesus, "is a sightless world. If anyone loves me, he will carefully keep my word and my Father will love him – we'll move right into the neighborhood!" The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

John 14:11-12, John 1:14, The Message

Jesus resumed talking to the people, but now tenderly. . . . "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Matthew 11:27, 28–30, The Message

Pause to prepare/Food for thought

Do you see it? Our way to freedom: as we trust God, we re-order our lives, even when it makes us feel uncomfortable. We do not change our behavior because we fear God's wrath. We change our behavior because we believe that God loves us, and we trust him when he tells us that the pathway to freedom is found as we travel the road of obedience. We will fall and falter, freak out and get frustrated, but who cares? Our goal is no longer to be good or get it right. It is simply to trust God. Trusting God means that we will ask him to help us because we are able to be honest with the ones we love. We know we can't make these changes without his divine intervention. We have labored in vain long enough. We are ready to let go and let God. Because we're desperate? Maybe so, but God is far less concerned with our initial motivation than he is with getting us right where he wants us—believing in the one he has sent.

What distortions in belief hold you back from this awesome life?