

# POWER TO FLOURISH IN THIS HOUSE

## RHYTHM OF GRACE (Week 4)

**WELCOME:** As we celebrate Mosaic's 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary, what are you most thankful for about our Church?

**WORSHIP:** Sing, **THANK YOU JESUS** (Hillsong Music)

**WORD:** Read Matthew 16:18 (NIV), Ephesians 1:20-23, Ephesians 2:19-22 (MSG)

Sometimes, you can be in the middle of a miracle and don't know it! Pastor reminded us that we are in the middle of a miracle—God is changing lives, and fitting each life—brick by brick, stone by stone to build His church! Performing a miracle in each life! God is calling to us to be aware of the fact that we're in the middle of a miracle, and He wants us to build His house with Him! There are seven billion people on this planet, but God in His wisdom placed you in Lloydminster—there must be a reason for that, and if you're not careful, if you don't grow in your intelligence and vision, you will always look at your current situation as transitional, and therefore you don't build anything, you don't grow your roots, so you don't get to see any fruit—you always think, I'll build somewhere one day, some day—but how about today? God is calling us to build now!

God has given us an assignment to build His local church. One of our goals is to reach 1000 people by 2019! If we'll only be obedient, all of us, working together with God, can reach that goal in less than a year! A thousand people whose lives will be changed forever, and whose destinies will be different because of Jesus! But the key word for us is, OBEДИENT.

One of the most important parts of last Sunday's sermon was the idea that the church is not peripheral to the world, instead, the church is the center of God's universe. This is why it is important for the church to accept our calling; it's important for us to acknowledge our victory; and to live out that God-ordained destiny to fill this world with God's presence through us! That when we speak, Christ speaks through us; when we act, Jesus acts through us! We must accept the fact that we are not peripheral to the world—that means, we should be leading the world and not be led by it! At Mosaic (we may be a young church), but we dream big, we aim high because we want to live out God's calling for our lives—we're joining Jesus in building His church. Listen, when we join Jesus in building the church, we help build our own lives, because each of us is a part of the church—when the church is built up, so are you. The more we devote ourselves in building the church, the more Jesus builds our lives and our destiny! He is calling us to build the family to which He has called us.

**We can be part of the church and not be obedient.** Pastor reminded us of the importance of bring others to Christ. If we don't bring people to Christ they will never know the joy of having a relationship with Jesus; they will never know their purpose in life, and they will spend the rest of eternity apart from Christ. Who brought you to Christ? Aren't you thankful that they chose to be obedient to God?

**Many struggle with disobedience and complacency.** If we think that there will always be enough time to reach out to others "next time" we lose the sense of urgency to bring people to Christ. Pastor reminded us that now is a good time to renounce the unhealthy rhythms of disobedience and complacency! Those rhythms won't make you produce fruit. From the very beginning, God has always called His people to thrive, to flourish and be at the forefront of prosperity and advancement! Do you struggle with obedience?

**Obedience is always requisite to abundance.** God told His people in the Old Testament, the people of Israel in Deuteronomy 28:13 (NIV) that if they will be careful to obey they will always be at the top. That idea is found all throughout the Bible. Pastor shared this quote from Brian Houston of Hillsong Church, "You will never come second by putting God first!"

**Create new rhythms to get rid of old ones.** We have learned that the only way to break a pattern that keeps us from being fruitful is by starting a new one that will propel to fruitfulness! And as a church, we want to start new patterns that will allow us to be more obedient and fruitful, and become the church that God wants us to be—a vibrant, exciting, Gospel-preaching, spirit-filled, impacting church—not a church on the peripheries, but at the forefront; not the tail, but the head—a church by which Jesus fills this city with his presence. We believe that God wants us to help build Mosaic to be a church whose voice and presence cannot be ignored—speaking forth life and liberty; healing

and salvation; declaring the grace of Jesus to all people! God saved us for that purpose! Read Ephesians 3:10. We are meant to display the goodness, wisdom and grace of God! And if we want to preach the gospel of God's grace more effectively, we need to follow the rhythms of GRACE more intently!

## WHAT ARE THE RHYTHMS OF GRACE?

**GRATITUDE.** The rhythm of grace begins with gratitude! It is the opposite of the sense of entitlement. Entitlement says, "I have because I deserve, I deserve so I should have." Gratitude says, "I don't deserve, but I still have—therefore, I'm grateful." If you're married, tell your spouse, "I don't deserve you, but because of God is good, He gave me you." That's the rhythm of gratitude—it starts with humbly acknowledging that what you have and who you are gifts from God that we need to steward—to care for, to treasure and to grow. That is our approach to life, to our relationships, our jobs, and that is our approach to church! We want to build an attitude that says, "I DON'T HAVE TO, I GET TO!" We don't have to build this church! We GET to build this church! We get to be a part of what God is doing! That attitude leads to a life of praise—because you will never fail to see God's goodness! Do you struggle with negativity in your life or thinking? How can you develop the mindset of gratitude this week?

**REACH.** We must embrace the rhythm of continuously reaching. One of the good things about reaching is it stretches you! Stretching strengthens your faith muscles! It allows you to do things you were not able to do before! Stretch, reach and see your faith grow, see your dreams come true, and others come to Jesus through you! Reach! God has given us dreams and goals, don't stop reaching for them! God has given neighbors, family and friends who need to know Jesus—don't stop reaching out to them! In fact, make it your goal to bring two or three people to Jesus (and to the church). Don't stop reaching out after one visit. Pastor said one of our biggest mistakes is we don't follow up the people we invite, he reminded us that bringing someone to Jesus is like raising an infant. Have you intentionally prayed for and reached out to people whom God has placed in your life? How can you reach out to them more effectively?

**AUDACITY.** It's being bold, daring and aggressive! Audacity, when exercised in the wrong way and for the wrong reasons can be destructive, but audacity, when exerted for the glory of God can change the world! That's what the apostles had which made them unstoppable! We want to be people who are audacious, and exercise our audacity the right way! We don't want to use audacity to attack people, or culture or systems, or even other churches. Whether in business, ministry or life; we must be audacious about our call to build the church, we don't want to shrink back! We risk missing something that God has for us if we cower in fear. Don't hold anything back from God—because God doesn't hold back anything from you. That means whatever limits we have in our minds regarding the church, we need to remove those limits! God is a limitless God, and audacity for us means, believing what Ephesians 3:20 says. In what ways can you start living audaciously for God?

**CONSISTENCY.** Consistency is not about how well you do the first day; it's about the last day! God is calling us to keep building His church. Not for a year, not for a decade—we must make a commitment to build the church as long as we have breath! The apostles kept reaching out to people and preaching the gospel 'til their very last breath, much of the fruit of their work and sacrifice they did not see with their own eyes. We are their fruit! If there's rhythm we need to work on, it's this, because we are people who don't like it when things become inconvenient or we get impatient and see no fruit, so we quit! God is telling us today—DON'T QUIT! Even the most difficult situations, don't quit. Whether it's your marriage, your parenting, your school work, but especially in building the church (things can get difficult and inconvenient, but), don't quit! As the old saying goes, "Winners never quit...quitters never win." Pastor reminded us that we are on the winning team: TeamJesus! Do you struggle with consistency? Why do you think you give up too easily? How can you develop consistency?

**EXCELLENCE.** Excellence has to do with quality. Excellence means, it's not enough to just have fruit, you have to bear good quality fruit! Excellence is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well. Excellence also has to do with sacrifice, not being satisfied with just OK. In 1 Chronicles 22:5, we see the attitude of David when it comes to worship and excellence, always offering the best to God. He didn't just want a magnificent temple, he prepared ahead for it. In everything, we must embrace that rhythm of excellence, giving and doing our best for the honor of God. Whether it's singing, leading, discipling, giving, serving, parenting, etc., let us pursue excellence! Excellence is giving our best for God who gave His best for us. Is there an area or two you need to excel more in?

## WORKS

- As we close in prayer, thank God for Mosaic and pray for the future plans that Pastor shared during the banquet.
- Pray for the people you wish to invite to EASTER.