

# THE PRAYER AND THE SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE OF CHRIST THAT WE MUST HAVE FOR GOD'S BUILDING

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If we have a proper spiritual understanding of Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3, we will realize that we must buy the anointing Spirit as the eyesalve to anoint our eyes so that we might see God's eternal goal, God's heart's desire, and God's central thought, which are the meaning of the universe, the meaning of man, and the fulfillment of the aspiration, longing, and desire in man's heart for eternity (Rev. 3:18; Eccl. 3:11; Hag. 2:7; cf. Gen. 3:9). We buy the Spirit as the eyesalve by being poor in spirit, which is to be willing to become nothing, to be nobody, realizing that we have nothing, know nothing, and are nothing, in order to be an empty vessel available to be filled with Christ for the building up of the church. This is the real denial of the self for the best enjoyment of Christ today and the highest enjoyment of Christ in His millennial reign (Matt. 5:3; 16:18, 24-26; 25:21; 19:24; Phil. 2:5). We buy the Spirit by buying the truth as the reality of the shining word of God, buying gold refined by fire as the riches of God, and buying white garments so that we may be clothed with Christ as the weapons of light (Prov. 23:23; Rev. 3:18; Luke 12:21; Rom. 13:11-14).

God's goal, desire, and central thought are all related to His building. God's building is a divine-human person, a God-man (Gen. 2:22; Matt. 16:18; Rom. 1:3-4; 1 Tim. 3:15-16; Acts 9:4-5, 15; John 14:23). God's building is God becoming man that man might become God in life and nature but not in the Godhead. In His humanity Christ became a joining ladder, joining heaven (God) and earth (man) into one for the building of Bethel, the spiritual house of God (Gen. 28:12-17; John 1:51; Rom. 1:3-4). God became man through incarnation (bringing heaven to earth), and man becomes God through regeneration and transformation (joining earth to heaven). God's building in the Gospels is the individual God-man, Jesus, who is the tabernacle and temple of God (John 1:14; 2:19). God's building in Acts and the Epistles is the new man, the church, as the corporate manifestation of God in the flesh, the house of the living God, and the masterpiece of the Triune God (Acts 9:4-5; 1 Tim. 3:15-16; Eph. 2:10, 15, 21-22; Col. 2:19; 3:10-11). God's building in Revelation is the ultimate, consummate, great corporate God-man, the New Jerusalem, the "bride-building," the eternal mutual abode of God being built into man as the tabernacle of God and of man being built into God as the temple of God (21:2-3, 9-10, 22). God is building Himself into man and building man into Himself for the building up of the church as the house of God for His expression and as the kingdom of God for His dominion to fulfill His original intention for man (Gen. 1:26; Matt. 16:18-19; Rom. 14:17; John 14:23; Luke 17:21; Dan. 2:35, 44).

## **Paul's Prayer for God's Goal, God's Desire, and God's Central Thought concerning His Building**

Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:16 through 21 is his greatest prayer, since it is a prayer for our subjective experience of the central work of God. God's goal, God's heart's desire,