



SERIES: MY LIFE WITH GOD

The Life That I Built

Life Reference: Matthew 7:24-27

Focus Verse:

"Every wise woman buildeth her house" (Proverbs 14:1).

Before building anything, a clear, concise concept of the end result is important. What shall I make? A gazebo? A bench for the front lawn? A house?

If I decide to build a house, how big? One story or two? Will there be a basement? How many bedrooms? Will I decorate it with Victorian accessories, country cottage, or modern with lots of glass and steel?

Blueprints, research, and cost analysis are vital preliminary chores. Once I know what I want, can I afford it or will I settle for something less?

The same is true with my life. How big of a life do I want? What do I want to become?



Life Reflection:

Do I have a life plan?

Are my decisions based on what feels good at the moment or do I consider long term consequences?



The Bible tells the story of two builders. (See Matthew 7:24-27.) One built his house on a rock and the other on the sand. The rains came and the winds blew. The house on the rock stood; the house on the sand fell. Both builders chose where they would build. Their decisions determined whether their houses stood or fell.

Just as in building a house, whether my life stands or falls is determined by where I build, how I build, and what materials I use. I must insert the characteristics I desire.

I will not be remembered differently than the way I lived.

Life Reflection:

How do people perceive me?

How do I want to be remembered?

I live with severe limitations—24 hours in my day—I can only be at one place at a time—365 days in each year—I will only live so long and I have no idea how long that will be. With my restrictions of time and space, I cannot afford to live carelessly. Each day I must put the things into my life that will help me to develop my dream life.

I invite you to join me in an exercise. I made a list of the qualities I long to have in my life. What does your list look like?

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Kind | 11. Excellence |
| 2. Encouraging | 12. Dependable |
| 3. Approachable | 13. Ladylike |
| 4. Joyful | 14. Safe relationships |
| 5. Peaceable | 15. Balanced |
| 6. Compassionate | 16. Thankful |
| 7. Loving | 17. Godly |
| 8. Respected | 18. Prayer warrior |
| 9. Trusted | 19. Soul winner |
| 10. Integrity | 20. Sensitive to and used by God |



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I cannot rely on magical changes. Fantasy does not develop character. A dream will not determine where I spend eternity. I must proactively pursue and develop the characteristics I desire.

“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?” (Luke 14:28)

Building my life requires my counting the cost. To acquire one thing, I must let go of another. Some things have to be relinquished in order for me to grasp what really matters.

IF I WANT:	I MUST LET GO OF:
Wealth	Emotional spending
Peace	Saying what I think when I am angry
Trust	Repeating gossip
To be an encourager	Pointing out the flaws in others
To have integrity	Taking the easy way out and doing only what feels good
A relationship with God	Living my life without thought of what pleases Him
To become a prayer warrior	Praying only when I feel like it

Life Reflection:

What are some things in my life that need to change?

“Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7).



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Life Response:

I am daily sowing—planting things in my life and character that will grow. I will reap a harvest of the things I deposit into my life.

Judas had potential. Handpicked by Christ, he might have authored books in the Bible— turned the world upside down—caused people to be healed as his shadow passed them. The Word of God records a strange statement. “Judas ... fell, that he might go to his own place” (Acts 1:25). Judas went to the place he had created for himself with his previous decisions. Long before betraying the Lord, he made choices. Those decisions may have seemed benign, but each made it easier to make the next and the next.

At the end of my life, I will be the person that I created. The sum total of my life is made up of lifestyle choices, decisions, or lack of action. I will receive the reward of my labor. (See I Corinthians 3:8.)

Life Reflection:

Now that I have decided the type of life I want, am I doing the things necessary to make it a reality?

**“Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:
But lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”
(Matthew 6:19-21).**

I have only one life—and only those days which I have not yet spent. It is possible to dedicate my life to things which are temporary and will disappear when my life is over. I have the opportunity each day, though, to invest in things that have eternal consequence.

Jesus stood overlooking Jerusalem. He lamented over the choices the city had made. He longed to gather her children, “even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” His final analysis was, “Your house is left unto you desolate” (Matthew 23:37-38).





Opportunity for the city that Jesus loved had come and gone. What once could have been had been neglected, and the end result of wasted decisions was not pretty.

The parable of the servants is revealing. Their master had given each a different amount to be responsible over, based on his capabilities. One servant hid his. Playing it safe was not appreciated. (See Matthew 25:14-30.) The lazy servant attempted to divert blame to his master and make excuses.

The blame game did not work then; it does not work now. In our society, it is popular to point fingers at parents, easy to indict spouses or children, and possible to attribute one's actions and responses onto circumstances. "I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth." "We were poor." "My father left me; my mother neglected me." "I was abused." "I was never popular."

I cannot drift through life and miraculously have the life I desire. The life I build is mine. I cannot blame the decisions of others or the cards I was dealt. When it is all said and done, it is the life that I built!

My Prayer:

Dear Lord, I realize that I am building my life one decision at a time. My choices draw me either closer to You or farther away. Help me to let go of the things that will hinder me from reaching my full potential with you. May I daily build godly characteristics into my life that will be pleasing to You and that will influence others to seek You for themselves.

More Life with God References:

Joshua 24:15
Psalm 90:17
Psalm 101:2
Psalm 127:1
Proverbs 20:3-7
Proverbs 31:10-31
Ecclesiastes 9:10
Matthew 6:19-34
Luke 14:26-33
Galatians 6:8-9

Bible Study written by Bonnie Peacock



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