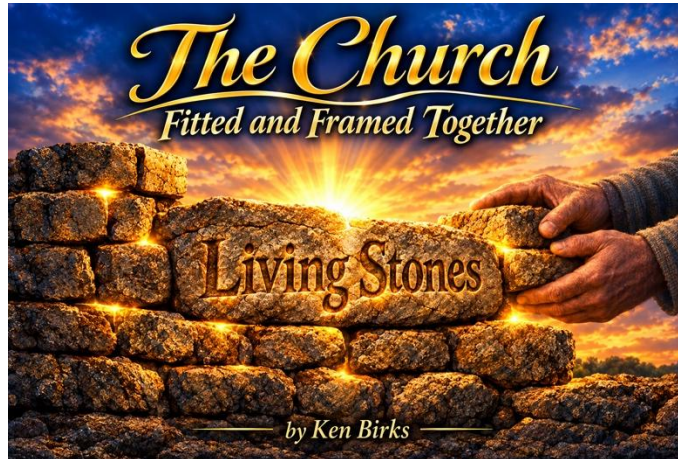


The Church

Fitted and Framed Together

By Ken Birks, Pastor, Bible Teacher, Author

From the moment Jesus declared, “Upon this rock I will build My Church,” the blueprint of heaven was set into motion. The revelation of Christ became the cornerstone, and every believer became a living stone—shaped by the Spirit, aligned to the Son, and placed by the Father.



The Church is not a monument of human effort—it is a living, breathing structure of divine craftsmanship, rising in glory and purpose to reveal Christ to the world as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit conspire together to produce a *glorious Church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish*.¹ The passage below sets the tone for the dynamic introduction of the Church that was about to be birthed into existence when Jesus made this amazing proclamation to Peter and the other disciples.

Matthew 16:17-19 *“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

Jesus’ words in Matthew’s gospel still thunder across the ages with unstoppable authority and burning hope. When Jesus declared, “*You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it,*” He wasn’t merely making a theological statement—He was announcing a cosmic shift, a kingdom invasion, and the birth of an unstoppable people who would carry heaven’s revelation into the darkest corners of the earth.

¹¹ Ephesians 5:25-27

In that moment, Jesus revealed the foundation of everything He would build, who He is—the Christ, the Son of the living God—and the faith awakened by the Father that receives and acts on that revelation. Upon this living, burning, Spirit-given foundation, Jesus has been building His Church for over two thousand years, and nothing in the realm of death has ever been able to stop it.

Jesus then placed keys in the hands of His people—kingdom keys, authority keys, keys that open and shut, bind and loose, keys that release heaven’s intentions into earthly realities. These keys are not ornamental; they are operational. They are given so the Church can confront darkness, break demonic resistance, release divine purpose, and partner with God’s redemptive mission until the whole earth is filled with the knowledge of His glory.

When we look back across the centuries—through awakenings, reformations, revivals, missionary movements, prophetic visitations, and the countless acts of courage and faith carried out by ordinary believers—we stand in awe. Truly, the Church Jesus is building has shaken nations, transformed cultures, and carried the gospel to the ends of the earth.

But now, we stand at the threshold of the closing moments of this age. The final chapters of God’s redemptive story are unfolding before us. Much remains to be accomplished, fulfilled, and revealed. Jesus is not returning for a defeated, discouraged, or compromised people—He is returning for a glorified Church, a radiant Bride, a people who embody the fullness and stature of Christ.

Paul declares to the church at Ephesus, *“Just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”*²

Positionally, we are already perfected in Him—but prophetically, Jesus is calling forth a Church that expresses that perfection in holiness, purity, unity, and Spirit-empowered maturity. Paul saw this when he wrote to the Ephesians: A Church so fitted, framed, joined, and built together that it becomes a living expression of Christ Himself—His character, His love, His authority, His compassion, His purity, and His power. We are the living stones Jesus is using to fit and frame it together. This is the Church Jesus is forming right now; the Church the Holy Spirit is refining, and the Church history has been waiting for. This is the

² Ephesians 5:25-27

Church the world desperately needs, the Church that will stand fearless as darkness increases. This is the Church that will shine with the glory of the risen Christ. And this is the Church we are part of. The keys are in our hands. The revelation burns in our hearts. The Spirit is upon us. The future is bright with God's purposes. And the gates of Hades will not prevail, as we see in the prophetic passages below. We are the living stones Peter spoke prophetically into existence.

*Peter is quoted: "We come to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."*³

Peter saw this Church when he made reference to it as a spiritual house made with living stones, and Paul used the expression of how we are being fitted and framed together as the household of God and a dwelling place of God, in a place where God is enthroned and inhabits the praises of His people,⁴ as the following declares.

*Paul declares to the Ephesians, "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."*⁵

Peter and Paul's revelation of the Church points to the very Church Jesus is forming in this present hour—the Church the Holy Spirit is actively refining and the Church all of history has been longing to see. This is the Church the world desperately needs, the Church that will stand fearless as darkness increases. This is the Church that will shine with the glory of the risen Christ, and this is the Church we are part of. The keys are in our hands. The revelation burns in our hearts. The Spirit is upon us. The future is bright with God's purposes. All that Satan stole in the fall is about to be completely restored, bringing the Church to the place where the gates of Hades will not prevail, as seen in the prophetic passage below.

Acts 3:19-21 declares, "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

³ 1 Peter 2:5

⁴ Psalm 22:3

⁵ Ephesians 2:19-21

and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”

The Godhead in Action, Shaping and Fitting

We are in the process of being fitted together as living stones through Spirit-led transformation, Christ-centered alignment, and God-designed placement—a divine process that shapes us individually so we can function corporately as one holy dwelling. Our part is to embrace the sovereignty of God in this process, just as Peter did when he received the vision of the Gentiles coming into the Church.

The biblical language Peter and Paul use is architectural, intentional, and prophetic. It describes a process where Christ shapes the stones, the Spirit positions the stones, and the Father designs the structure – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit working together to complete the process. Each believer becomes a living stone, shaped to fit with others—not by human effort, but by divine craftsmanship.

How the Father Places Us in the Structure

In His wisdom and love, the Father is building a house that will hold His glory—a dwelling not made with hands but formed by hearts surrendered to His purpose. He chooses where each stone belongs, determines every connection, assigns every function, and oversees the entire process with divine precision.⁶ Nothing in your life is random—your relationships, your ministry, your gifts, and your influence are all part of His architectural design. When the stones are shaped, aligned, and placed, the Church rises as a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, a dwelling place for God, unified and mature, expressing Christ Himself to the world. This is what Peter and Paul saw in the Spirit—a Church so radiant, so holy, so Spirit-filled, that it becomes a living revelation of Jesus. The beauty of this fitting together is not found in human agreement or similarity but in transformation. Stones do not fit together naturally; they fit because the Master Builder shapes them. Unity is not born of human harmony—it is the result of divine craftsmanship. And the process continues: we are being shaped, aligned, joined, and built. The Church is still under construction, and the Spirit is relentless in His commitment to complete the work until the dwelling shines with the fullness of God’s glory.

⁶ 1 Corinthians 12:18, Psalm 68:6

How Christ Aligns Us with One Another

Christ Himself is the chief cornerstone, and as each of us is aligned to Him, we are gently aligned to one another. This unity is not forced—it emerges naturally as His life shapes ours. In Him we discover a shared identity, becoming one body, one Spirit, and one hope. His character begins to form within us until humility, love, purity, and courage flow through our lives. His mission becomes our mission as we carry His kingdom into the world, and His authority becomes the covering under which we live, serve, and grow.

When every stone aligns to Christ, unity ceases to be a struggle; it becomes the beautiful and inevitable result of His presence among us. He draws us together, not by demanding sameness, but by forming His life within each heart until we stand as one—strong, steady, and joined in purpose.

How the Spirit Shapes Each Stone

The Holy Spirit moves tenderly within each believer, shaping us from the inside out so that we might fit perfectly into God’s divine design. His work is never harsh—it is the loving craftsmanship of a Master Builder preparing His dwelling. He smooths the rough edges of pride, fear, and independence, replacing them with humility, purity, and courage. He breathes transformation into our hearts until Christ’s nature shines through our words and actions. He empowers us with gifts that strengthen the whole house and align our desires, priorities, and identity with the heart of Jesus.

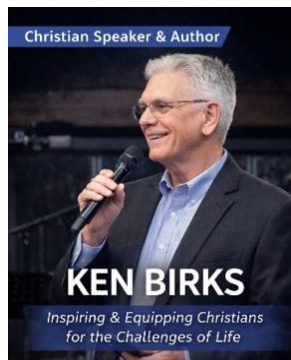
This shaping is not punishment—it is preparation. Every touch of His hand, every moment of refining, is purposeful. The Spirit is making us ready for our place in God’s eternal structure, where each stone glows with His glory and fits perfectly into the masterpiece He is building.

In conclusion, the Church Jesus is building is rising—strong, radiant, unshakeable, and filled with the glory of the living Christ. We are not drifting toward the finish; we are being carried by the momentum of heaven’s eternal purpose. Every stone He shapes, every life He aligns, every placement the Father ordains is moving us toward the unveiling of a people who reflect His holiness, His unity, His compassion, and His power. Though darkness may thicken around us, the light within us is growing brighter, for the Spirit is relentlessly forming Christ in His people. We stand on the edge of the greatest days the Church has ever known—days of restoration, refreshing, awakening, and global witness. The keys of the Kingdom are in our

hands, the revelation of Christ burns in our hearts, and God's purposes are surging toward fulfillment. Take courage, lift your eyes, and strengthen your hands. The Master Builder is completing His house, and we are the living stones He has chosen for this moment. The gates of Hades will not prevail; Christ's glory will be revealed, and the Church will stand in the beauty of holiness as God's dwelling place in the Spirit—fitted, framed, and prepared for the King's return!

May God bless you mightily as you co-labor with all that God is doing during this prophetic season.

About Ken Birks



Ken has walked with God through seasons of quiet wonder, deep refining, and unexpected grace — journeys that have shaped both his faith and voice. From early moments of sensing God's nearness to years of learning to listen more closely, Ken has discovered that the Lord often speaks in whispers, rhythms, and poetic impressions.

Out of those sacred encounters came a desire to write — not to impress, but to invite. To invite others into the same stillness, the same clarity, the same holy encouragement that has carried them through life's valleys and mountaintops. His devotional poetry and other writings flow from a heart that has wrestled, worshiped, and been transformed by God's presence.

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