

Our spiritual "BUILDING" is routinely limited to occasional desperation prayers (i.e. "Oh God, HELP!") or a once per week meeting where we listen to someone else's study of God's Word.

"DILLIGENCE" is a word the Bible uses to instruct us in regards to how we are to "BUILD" spiritually.

*"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**" (Hebrews 11:6)*

What Should Our Priorities Be

*"For bodily exercise profiteth little: but **godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.**" (1 Timothy 4:8)*

Caring for our physical and spiritual needs are both good; both are important. But our spiritual health is far more important. As the verse above points out, bodily exercise is profitable... it helps us with this life. However, taking care of our spiritual well be-

ing is beneficial for this life and for eternity.

How do our priorities compare?

Physically - probably 40 hours of work per week - maybe an exercise class or two - perhaps a daily walk around the block - likely spending most of our money on the physical needs of now and the future.

Spiritually - probably an hour or two on Sunday - maybe a Bible study - perhaps a prayer meeting - likely far less than 10% given to the work of God.

Conclusion:

Are we "PITCHING" or "BUILDING" our "TENTS"?

Are we "PITCHING" or "BUILDING" our "ALTARS"?

Should we reverse what we are doing?

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*"And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and **pitched his tent**, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he **builded an altar** unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord." (Genesis 12:8)*

*"Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and **pitched his tent** toward Sodom." (Genesis 13:12)*

*"Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and **built there an altar** unto the Lord." (Genesis 13:18)*

"Pitch" and "Build" Priorities

It is fitting that Abraham ("Father of

ABRAHAM PITCHED TENTS AND BUILT ALTARS

Faith") demonstrates what are appropriate priorities in life. He "PITCHED" his "TENT" and he "BUILT" his "ALTARS"!

It seems fair to equate Abraham's "TENT" with the **physical needs** and aspects of his life and to look at his "ALTARS" as representing the **spiritual necessities**. With this in mind it becomes readily evident as to what our priorities should be.

Are We "Pitching" and "Building" the Right Things

Looking to Abraham's example, we need to take inventory of the projects we are "pitching" and those we are "building" and ask ourselves...

... "What am I 'pitching'?"
... "What am I 'building'?"
... "Am I using my resources wisely?"
... "Are my efforts reflective of the most important things in life?"

As an example for us, the Bible includes historical events with the intention that we may avoid duplicating the

wrong methods and embrace the proper ones.

*"Now all these things happened unto them **for examples**: and they are **written for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the world are come." (1 Corinthians 10:11)*

We should learn from the example of Abraham.

Pitching Tents - Physical Needs

Physical needs are valid realities. In prioritizing our lives one cannot ignore our physical needs. Humans need water, food, clothing, and shelter. These real needs are very important... possibly to the point of death.

In situations where these basic needs are lacking, the pain of the unmet need becomes a more acute reality.

Sadly, in western cultures, **the physical realm often takes priority over the needs of the spiritual**. Instead of "PITCHING TENTS" we are frequently enamored with "BUILDING EDIFICES".

Rather than meeting physical "NEEDS", we focus on obtaining "LUXURIES".

Often we "BUILD BIGGER BARNES" rather than "PITCH TENTS". This leaves us answering to God for our flawed priorities.

*"And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, **and build greater**; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. (19) And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. (20) But God said unto him, **Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee**: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (Luke 12:18-20)*

Building Altars - Spiritual Needs

While physical needs are indeed realities, **spiritual needs are far greater**. Unfortunately, physical needs are more easily perceived; therefore, the physical is generally more diligently sought after.