

How Build & Wellspring Fit into the Vision and Purpose of GBC

"A biblical vision of God leads us to our gospel purpose in Christ."

drawing in - building up - sending out

the glory of God - the cross of Christ - life transformation by the Spirit

I. "A biblical vision of God..."

What do we mean by "biblical vision?"

1. The glory of God.

What difference should this make every day?

2. The cross of Christ.

How is Christ's death at the cross related to God's glory?

Exodus 40:34-38; Leviticus 1:1-4
Hebrews 9:18-28

What difference should this make every day?

3. *The transformation of life by the Spirit.*

What is the primary work of the Holy Spirit?

John 3:1-8; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 8:14-17; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:10-13.

What difference should this make every day?

II. "... Our gospel purpose in Christ."

What do we mean by "gospel purpose?"

1. *Drawing in.*

"Drawing in" is uniquely God's sovereign, saving work, John 6:44, 65; Ac 13:48.

Jesus crucified is God's powerful object of attraction, John 12:32; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-24; 2:1-5.

What difference should this make every day?

2. *Building up.*

You must be built up personally as well as with the entire body of Christ called GBC, Ephesians 4:11-16.

What difference should this make every day?

3. *Sending out.*

Grasp this progression:

God has always been a sending God. He sent Moses, Exodus 3:10, 12-14; Isaiah, Isaiah 6:8-9; Jeremiah, Jeremiah 1:5-7, 9; Ezekiel, Ezekiel 3:5-7; John the Baptist, John 1:6; 3:28; etc.

Jesus Christ was sent by His sending Father. Trace how many times "send" or "sent" is used in the Gospel of John concerning Jesus (50 times!).

The Holy Spirit was sent, too. John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7.

Disciples of Jesus are sent ones as well. John 4:38; 17:18; 20:21; Matthew 9:35-10:5.

What difference should this make every day? (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

The relationship between "drawing in," "building up," and "sending out."

III. Where and how do Build and Wellspring fit into this?

Q1: What is the history behind Build and Wellspring and how are they related to each other?

Build began 13 years ago in our church as a leadership development ministry for the men. The New Testament makes clear that God desires men in the church to be spiritual leaders of their homes and in the church body. The only way that a man can effectively do either of those is if he first is shepherding his own heart to the word of God in order to know and love the God of the word. The spiritual disciplines of Build help the elders to disciple the men toward that end. For 13 years now we have been discipling the men of the church in the spiritual disciplines of Build with the hopes that they will be strengthened in their spiritual leadership in the home and the church body.

Wellspring is the women's version of Build (based on Proverbs 4:23). God has a special ministry arena for the women in the local church. They uniquely have an irreplaceable ministry with one another according to Titus 2:3-5. The exhortations in Titus 2:3-5 happen at a variety of levels throughout the body at GBC - one on one meetings, small groups, etc. And what fuels that unique ministry are the very same spiritual disciplines. The way that a woman most effectively fulfills her role in Titus 2:3-5 is if she first is a woman who shepherds her heart to the word of God to worship the God of the word. And if she is caring well for her own household first, she's already fulfilling the Titus 2 mandate. But then her ministry within the body with other women is all the more marked by integrity. That woman has something to offer the other women. Wellspring is simply a tool that we hope God would be pleased to use to help accelerate the spiritual growth of the women in the church.

Q2: How do Build and Wellspring fit within the vision and purpose of GBC?

In one sense, Build and Wellspring stand between the biblical vision and the gospel purpose of the church (or they bridge the two) They exist in one sense to help the men and women of the church become more consistent in gazing on the glory of God in the cross of Christ for the Spirit's transformation of life. They help us to simply set our sights on our great Triune God in the pages of Scripture. But then, Build and Wellspring also exist to move men and women into gospel action in their homes, in our church and beyond the wall of GBC. Build and Wellspring probably most clearly exist to edify or build up believing men and women within GBC.

A brief word about how Build and Wellspring relate to other ministries in the church like small group. We could say this: What Build and Wellspring are aiming at in men and women will strengthen their participation in small group. But neither are seen by the elders to be a substitute for involvement in a small group. If you are not yet plugged into a small group, please see any of the leaders of these ministries. It would be their great joy to help you find the small group that you can be most faithful in.

Q3: What is the point of Bible reading plans and the heart behind them?

The primary goal in encouraging participants of Build and Wellspring to be faithful to a Bible reading plan is to discover the God of the word from one page to the next all the way from the beginning to the end of the Bible. God didn't reveal Himself only in our five favorite books of the Bible, but on every single page. To ignore or neglect His Self-revelation on all the other pages impoverishes our souls that are nourished by the rich truths concerning Him on those pages. If you need to start slowly and be on a 3 year plan to get through the whole Bible, we'd love to walk with you on that amazing journey! And if you are ready to accept the challenge to read through the Bible in a year, we're here to stand beside you all the way and encourage you. Regardless of how much you prayerfully choose to read this coming year, the goal is to meet with the God of the word and marvel at His character. When our Bibles are open, worship needs to be alive and well!