

## THE BIG IDEA: If we want the fire, we've got to run the wire.

### The Take-Off

As we start to near the end of our series "Under Construction," let's review the basic idea of the series and the format we've been taking.

The main point of the series has been that as long as God is building, there's hope.

That's good news for each of us, because we're all at different places in the construction process.

We've talked about having a blueprint - or a plan - for the building, and that God's plan for our lives is the best one.

We've talked about the need to have a solid foundation, and obedience to God's Word provides the most solid one.

Last week we talked about the walls that give a building a distinct look, and that accepting our place allows us to advance with power.

And that brings us to this morning, and the next step in the construction: wiring.

I'm hopeful that as we go through the teaching, it will make sense, but let me at least be clear about what we mean by wiring: wiring is the system in the house that isn't seen, but is necessary if the house is going to have any kind of power.

Think of wiring as the systems in the church - the nervous system or the circulatory system - that help the church function and operate with life.

Seems a little weird, I know, so let's check the Big Idea and then break this message into 2 parts: our part and God's part.

First, the Big Idea: **If we want the fire, we've got to run the wire.**

Our part is the system - placing, or running, the wire.

- different size homes require different wiring
- this is one reason why churches and organizations can struggle during certain growth seasons
- the older system no longer functions
- systems aren't bad; they're actually very necessary

God's part is the Spirit - powering the wire, or sending the fire.

- think about building a house
- running wire - putting it in place - isn't the same as creating the electricity to power it
- that comes from the power company
- it's the same with God - we can't manufacture the Spirit - God gives that power

**If we want the fire** (the Spirit), **we've got to run the wire** (the system).

Now, let me make 3 critical statements about the wiring of the house (church) that God is building.

### 1. A system without the Spirit will shut the house down

- a. **2 Timothy 3:5** describes a house with no power
- b. We can have all the wiring in place - the best system - but without the Spirit, we're dead
- c. A dead body still has its systems - it just doesn't have any life flowing through them!
- d. We can "look the part" and still be living apart from the power of God, as today's testimony reveals
- e. [VIDEO / Cody Teague testimony]

### 2. The Spirit without a system will burn the house down

- a. The entire book of **1 Corinthians!**
- b. Paul wrote to a church that was imploding about the need for systems and order
- c. Wildfire was raging out of control, and Paul wrote about the need for unity and peace
- d. That's a system
- e. **Acts 6**
- f. After the Holy Spirit had been given (power), the early church faced a critical juncture where they recognized that the power wasn't flowing like it should to everybody
- g. The system had a break in it, and 7 men full of the Spirit were selected to serve as the first deacons in the church
- h. That's a system

- i. In modern times, we could tell story after story about people running wild in churches claiming to be full of the Spirit but unable to display one of the fruits of that very same Spirit: self-control.
- j. **Galatians 5:23**

### 3. A system with the Spirit will raise the house up

- a. **Exodus 18 and 19**
- b. Exodus 18 - Moses' father-in-law suggested that Moses put a system in place
- c. The result? Exodus 19 - Moses met with God and received the commandments and the Presence of God that would take the people of God to a whole new level
- d. The house was raised up because the system (wiring) was in place to channel the Spirit (power)
- e. They ran the wire and received the fire

#### The Landing

Systems will always be changing - **Acts 6** is evidence of that, as are all the letters that Paul wrote to the churches in the New Testament

We can change - and should change - the systems as we grow, or in strategic seasons in the Kingdom

But the Spirit - God's power - will never change, and when the power stops flowing, it's time to check the wiring to make sure everything is still connected and running smoothly

**If we want the fire, we've got to run the wire.**

Let's pray.