



Bible Study
March 18, 2020

Chapter 2
Building Your Own House
Colossians 3:23

This chapter answers the question—Why spiritual disciplines? Why Bible Study, why Prayer, why Tithes and Offerings, and why Worship on a weekly basis? It shows why many believers are still struggling with the basic things of Christianity.

The story of John becoming a Samurai archer helps us. John now understands that in order to become a Samurai archer, he must chop wood and carry water (do the things necessary to keep the community alive). But now he becomes frustrated in the process. His shoulders ached and his hands began to blister from chopping wood and carrying water. But he kept working, remembering the promise that shooting would soon come. **Point to Ponder: When you believe in a compelling promise, you can continue through frustration and pain.**

John's frustration grew as he watched men old enough to be in retirement homes chopping wood and carrying wood effortlessly.

Akira noted John's frustration and struggle and sought to encourage him by telling him a story.

Point to Ponder: When frustration arises, each of us needs someone to encourage us to keep going—Hebrews 10:24-25.

Akira tells John a story about a Japanese builder named Kota who built some of the finest houses in Tokyo. He became world famous for his dedication to the process and willingness to improve his craft and his relentless devotion to keep learning, even late in his career.

After building houses for other people for over 30 years, he was ready to retire. He wanted to spend time traveling and spend time with his grandchildren.

However, when he presented his two-week notice, his bosses asked him to build one more house. Frustrated because he would have to cancel two trips and postpone his new life, he reluctantly agreed to build one more house. However, he agreed with his head and not his heart. He viewed this house differently from all the others. He viewed this one as an obligation, not an opportunity. This was not his best work at all. It was up to code but it did not have the "wow" factor. He knew this was not his best work. The next phase of his life was much more appealing to him than the present moment.

When he completed the house, his bosses presented him with the keys to the house and said "this house is yours; you deserve it!"

His heart sank. Unbeknownst to Kota, the whole time he was building his own house.

Principles (please relate to our Christian walk)

1. The only thing that is truly significant about today is who you become in the process.
2. When the process becomes a habit, it's no longer work.
3. When we focus on the process, everything else falls into place.
4. Respond to the statement from a spiritual perspective—agreeing with the head but not the heart.
5. How do we build our own house spiritually?
6. Do you view Prayer, Bible Study, Worship, and Christian giving as an obligation or an opportunity? Please explain.