

Our Time to Shine - By Adrian Davis

Summary

Pastor Adrian Davis argues that Christians often misunderstand endurance as passive survival. Instead, biblical endurance is active participation in God's work until Christ returns. As society enters increasingly difficult prophetic times, churches require strong spiritual structure rather than merely enthusiastic believers.

Using the collapse of the Quebec Bridge as his central illustration, he argues that just as engineering failures cause physical death, weaknesses in church structure produce spiritual collapse. He contrasts consumer Christianity with contributor Christianity, arguing that every believer has been gifted by God to strengthen the body.

The sermon builds toward a biblical model of church organization involving both:

- vertical authority (Christ → elders → deacons → brethren)
- horizontal ministry (members serving according to spiritual gifts)

This structure prepares the church for persecution, preserves unity, protects joy, and allows the Holy Spirit to work effectively.

The central proposition is:

"Without structural integrity, the church cannot survive the pressures of the last days or fully manifest the power of the Holy Spirit."

Practical Applications

The sermon encourages believers to:

- discover their spiritual gifts
- actively serve
- strengthen relationships
- embrace correction
- contribute to congregational health
- prepare spiritually for persecution
- value biblical authority
- avoid church consumerism
- build covenant relationships
- pursue maturity

Memorable Quotes (Paraphrased)

- Structure is not theoretical; when structure fails, people die.
 - This is not our time to hide—it is our time to shine.
 - We were not purchased "as is"; God purchased us for what we are to become.
 - Every believer is either a consumer or a contributor.
 - The church is a household, not a marketplace.
 - Joy is protected by structure.
 - The Holy Spirit equips believers to build one another, not merely themselves.
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TWO MODELS OF CHURCH

Household or Marketplace

THE CONSUMER MODEL

The church as a marketplace

"What does this church offer me?"

ROLE

Customer

POSTURE

Receive and evaluate

MEASURE

Personal satisfaction

WHEN HARD

Shop elsewhere

FRUIT

Spiritual atrophy

THE HOUSEHOLD MODEL

The church as a family

"What is my work in this body?"

ROLE

Member by adoption

POSTURE

Receive and also give

MEASURE

Edification of the whole

WHEN HARD

Forbear in love

FRUIT

Maturity and gifts in motion

"...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15

AUTHORITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

Two dimensions: vertical structure, horizontal gifts

THE VERTICAL

One divine structure

Only 3 levels – 2 ordained offices

DIVINELY APPOINTED OFFICES

CHRIST

Head of the body

ELDERS

DEACONS

THE HORIZONTAL

Many distinct gifts

The Spirit distributes gifts severally as he wills.

Ephesians 4:11 to 16

1 Corinthians 12:4 to 11

BRETHREN

Each member, each gift

Teaching

Hospitality

Service

Mercy

Exhortation

HORIZONTAL · SPIRIT-GIVEN GIFTS

"He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets... for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Authority Must Function

Structure is only protective when its officers actually lead

REBUKE

2 Timothy 4:2 · Titus 2:15

Preach the word. Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

OBEY

Hebrews 13:17

Obey them that have the rule over you, for they watch for your souls and must give account.

HONOR

1 Timothy 5:17

Elders that rule well are worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.

Christianity has been emasculated. Eldership must function: masculine strength wrapped in pastoral care.

Main Themes

1. Active Endurance - The sermon begins by redefining endurance.

Many Christians think endurance means: - **hanging on** - **surviving** - **waiting**

Instead, **biblical endurance** means:

- continuing Christ's work
- remaining productive
- faithfully serving until His return

The church must remain active rather than merely defensive.

2. Darkness is Coming

The sermon repeatedly stresses that:

- Jacob's Trouble approaches
- persecution is coming
- believers should expect rejection
- society will increasingly oppose faithful Christians

However, this is not intended to produce fear.

Rather:

This is our opportunity to shine.

Christ warned His disciples beforehand so they would not be offended.

3. The Quebec Bridge Illustration

This becomes the governing metaphor.

Key lesson:

Engineering mistakes ignored

↓

Bridge collapse

↓

Loss of life

The Iron Ring symbolizes continual awareness that structure matters.

Likewise:

Ignoring spiritual weaknesses

↓

Church collapse

↓

Spiritual casualties

4. Consumer vs Contributor Christianity

Consumer Christian:

- attends
- critiques
- receives
- shops for churches
- evaluates others
- avoids responsibility

Contributor Christian:

- serves
- builds
- encourages
- exercises gifts
- strengthens others
- accepts covenant responsibility

Churches become weak whenever members primarily consume rather than contribute.

5. Church as Household

Rather than a marketplace, the church is: - **family** - **covenant** - **household** - **body**

Therefore members cannot simply leave whenever conflict appears.

Families work through conflict.

Consumers simply shop elsewhere.

6. Spiritual Gifts Exist to Build Others

The Holy Spirit is not merely for personal blessing.

Its purpose is:

- edification
- contribution
- service
- strengthening others

Every member possesses unique gifts.

No member is unnecessary.

No member is sufficient by himself.

7. Vertical and Horizontal Structure

Perhaps the sermon's most distinctive teaching.

Vertical:

Christ

↓

Elders

↓

Deacons

↓

Brethren

Horizontal:

Members exercising gifts together

This creates both:

authority

and

mutual ministry.

Both are necessary.

8. Authority Exists for Edification

Authority is presented not as domination but as:

- protection
- maturity
- unity
- shepherding

Healthy authority:

serves

develops

equips

protects

rather than controls.