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# The Power of Unity, Praise, and Generosity

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August 4, 2024 | *Ezra 3:1-7*

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## Observations from Ezra 3:1-7

What can we observe happening from these verses?

### **The Altar:**

- Exodus 27:1-8: How to build the altar
- Leviticus 9:24: The altar was used for burnt offerings.

### **Verse 1-2**

- The people of God gathered as one. They were united under the leadership of Jeshua and Zerubbabel.
- **Reference Verses:** *Acts 4:32, Ephesians 4:3, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14*

### **Verse 3**

- The people of God were afraid of the “peoples of the lands”
- **Reference Verses:** *Joshua 1:9, Psalm 27:1, Isaiah 41:10*

### **Verses 4-5**

- They celebrated the Feast of Booths, started doing burnt offerings, free will offerings and celebrations regularly.
- **Reference Verses:** *Leviticus 22:33-42, Psalm 95:6, Hebrews 10:25*

### **Verse 6-7**

- Consistency in their burnt offerings. They built the altar first, and were ready to lay the foundation of the temple. They paid their workers from the grant from Cyrus”
- **Reference Verses:** *Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Peter 4:10*

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Ontario Community Church: **Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.**

John 6:47 (ESV) “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever **believes** has eternal life”

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## Three Key Lessons from Ezra 3:1-7

There are three lessons that we can draw from these verses:

### Step Out Boldly in Action

- The people of God stepped out boldly to rebuild the altar despite fear of others. We too should step out boldly and inspire action for the glory of God.
- **Reference Verses:** *Joshua 1:9, Hebrews 11:1, James 2:17*

### A Unified, Community Effort

- The people of God **united** to rebuild the altar. Unity in Christ and in doing God's work is powerful and necessary for ac-

complishing His will.

- **Reference Verses:** *Acts 4:32, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, Ephesians 4:3*

### Commitment to God's Word

- The people of God were committed to the Law and building the altar. We are to be committed to God's word and build up the church.
- **Reference Verses:** *Joshua 1:8, Psalm 119:105, James 1:22*

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### Application: (Ask yourself)

- What can I do with this information?
- How can I apply this?
- What are the actionable steps that I can take?

church community, encouraging and supporting fellow believers.

- **Reference Verses:** *Galatians 6:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Romans 12:16*

### Prioritize Worshipping the Lord

- Make worshipping the Lord a priority in your life. Worship the Lord personally and corporately.
- **Reference Verses:** *Matthew 18:20, Psalm 95:6, Hebrews 10:25*

### Make a Commitment to the Word of God

- Commit to reading, studying, and applying the living word to your daily life.
- **Reference Verses:** *2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 3:16, Psalm 1:2-3*

### Face Our Fears with Faith in Christ

- When we are afraid of what others may say or do, may we draw closer to God and trust in Him
- **Reference Verses:** *Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 56:3, John 14:27*

### Commit to Doing Good in the Name of Christ

- Be encouraged to engage the church and community through service and sharing in your faith.
- **Reference Verses:** *Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Peter 4:10, 2 Corinthians 9:7*

### Build and Strengthen Church Community

- Become an active member of your

### Praise the Lord for His Faithfulness with Gratitude and Thankfulness

- Never stop praising and worshipping the Lord. God is faithful! He never changes. Be thankful. Be grateful.
- **Reference Verses:** *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Psalm 106:1, Colossians 3:17*

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