



Episode 90

## Week 13: The Cornerstone

**Caleb:** How did Pastor Arlie develop a craving for God's word? Find out today on Dive Deep.

**Caleb:** Welcome to the first Dive Deep of 2020. A shout out to all the core groups listening in this week as we start back up. We're grateful for the season of celebration that we just enjoyed, and looking forward to having you join us in this year as we grow together in our faith and seek to be disciples making disciples. I'm your host, Caleb Swartz, and joining me today is Pastor Arlie. Welcome, Pastor Arlie.

**Pastor Arlie:** It's nice to be back.

**Caleb:** Glad to have you, of course. So, on Sunday, you shared with us the significance of the cornerstone. How it shapes and directs the entire construction of a building, how we can always return to the cornerstone to get a read on where to go next, and you challenge us to check what and who our cornerstone is. So, I'm curious. The choice to move towards the topic of the cornerstone, was that intentional because of the new year and starting off with the right perspective? I know in our Core52 series, Mark Moore lists and titles this week as rejection. Yet there's a shared theme in there of the cornerstone. So, what are your thoughts?

**Pastor Arlie:** Sure, sure. And I wasn't really comfortable with the term rejection. It feels like... rather negative.

**Caleb:** Here you go 2020! (laughs)

**Pastor Arlie:** And I didn't really want to start the year being that way. I'd rather start positive. And thinking about the fact that, of course, Jesus is the cornerstone. Yes, we get it, He was rejected. And that's very obviously scripturally accurate. But to talk about the cornerstone and then to talk about how we build on it, I think that's what I was thinking about mostly as I kind of prepared and was trying to look toward the new year. There's a lot of things, but I thought as I was trying to put together these six weeks because we're putting those together a little differently than what Mark Moore has those in his book, or in his suggested kind of thing... Decided that this is like a good foundation, the cornerstone, and then we can build on it from that point on. So, we'll just kind of have building blocks. And so that's kind of how that all came together in my head. But believing that the foundation of the cornerstone of Jesus in our faith, in our church, you know, worldwide... I mean, all of those aspects, not just personally, is of ultimate importance. And so I tried to... Although cornerstone is more of a decorative stone today, so it doesn't really have the architectural or engineering kind of significance that it really did as God was pointing out as far as Jesus being the cornerstone because like... Our cornerstone here at Christ Wesleyan, at Milton Campus, it basically just says, you know, the year that they built this building. And it's kind of a nice, little stone and it's stuck in the side, but it's not really of the significance of cornerstone as what God intended when He used that term. And so that's why I wanted to dig into it and give a whole bunch of information about what it was like, and then from that point on say why that's important of what we would build and how we need to go from there.

**Caleb:** Isn't that an interesting analogy though? That I think there are a lot of Christians out there that have a decorative cornerstone, but really haven't built everything on it.

**Pastor Arlie:** Yeah. I was thinking as I was talking about it, it just clicked in my brain the same way. That unfortunately, a lot of Christians, it's more for looks than it is for the actual foundation.

**Caleb:** Right. Which kind of leads us to another question of, as we look at these building blocks for life, and understanding that if Christ is our cornerstone in the more ancient understanding, we structurally build

everything on that. For someone that is coming to Christ later in life, they've built an entire life already. They've laid block their entire life to be where they're at. Do they need to tear everything down that they've done and start over again? Does Jesus use some of what's there? How does that work for somebody?

**Pastor Arlie:** Well, the physical and the spiritual are like two different worlds. And so, pretty important that you understand that Jesus has to be the foundation, and that's in the spiritual context. Now, does that mean it's probably going to change a lot of things in your life? I think so. Your value system changes, your perspective changes, what you build on from this point on changes. So yeah, I think there's a lot of changes. And to be honest, it's probably... That's why it's best when people come to Christ when they're young because they can start out building in the right direction instead of having to rebuild or tear down to build. You know, because for God to really build the foundation and really the temple that He wants to dwell in, it pretty much means He's going to have to direct it all. So yeah, there's a whole lot of changes. Now, not that your life falls apart in that sense, but it's all redirected and it is very different. Very different.

**Caleb:** Yeah, because I mean in my own personal experience, God was preparing me well ahead of time before I was ready for Him. But He used a lot of that for His purposes now and is using it. But I've also had friends that, you know, they were business people and the business that they had built and grown and were involved with no longer sat well with them, and they really couldn't continue that line of business because they just didn't feel it was honoring to God. So, they literally had to make a huge sacrifice, but I mean it did end up very well for them. Obviously, they had built good business sense, they knew how to do it. So, it's interesting. Different lives demand different things.

**Pastor Arlie:** Yeah. And it is such a transformation, that we're going to view life very differently. You know, when we turn around and we're born again. So that whole new spiritual life that happens and develops, it does put us on a whole different pathway, that's for sure.

**Caleb:** Yeah. And it starts with, you know, changing our cravings like you talked about. And so, I'm curious what your experience was like for

that. How did it grow? How did it develop? What did it look like for you? How did you develop it?

**Pastor Arlie:** I think that, you know, I was just saying you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink... Unless, you put salt in his oats. And then he becomes thirsty. And I guess the whole issue is how do we become thirsty for God's word? You know, I think, one: we have to see that it has purpose in for me. Like, if we're just reading for knowledge or for information and not for the personal benefit, we're going to miss something. But when we start realizing that God wants to talk to us every day through His word and He wants to speak to us through His word, we kind of sit up and take notice. And it's like, "Wow, there's a reason why I'm doing this." I'm not checking it off on a checklist. "Oh, I did my devotions today." But more I want to experience God today. And I think it's a mindset that kind of creates that craving and, you know, that desire. And the more you experience it, the more you want it. So, it continues to grow. So, I think that develops in that sense. But you have to see it as purposeful, as intentional, as God speaking directly to you. What does He want to say to you today? And, you know, if you're reading a passage, it's not the quantity that you read, it's the quality that you're reading. And so... Cause some people are like, "Okay. I'm going to read through the bible in a year. I'll do three and a half chapters every day and I'll get there." And it's true, you will. But did you experience God while you were going through it? Did He talk to you? You know, did His word come alive for you? That's what it really needs to do. And when that happens, I really feel that there's a greater respect for it, a greater appreciation, and a greater hunger and craving to be able to know it more.

**Caleb:** Yeah. And I think it does start out a little bit of, you know, you have to choose to read it even though you don't feel like it, don't want to.

**Pastor Arlie:** Oh, there are times, for sure.

**Caleb:** But that's so much like any other habit we're trying to build into our lives, you know? I haven't met a kid yet that wanted to brush their teeth when they were little, but you help them learn that it's good and they do it and then eventually...

**Pastor Arlie:** Unless it's some really yummy toothpaste.

**Caleb:** You know, we got strawberry for Anna now.

**Pastor Arlie:** There you go!

**Caleb:** And she just wants to eat it off the toothbrush. Anyways, I digress...  
(laughs)

**Pastor Arlie:** So, maybe it does work? (laughs) But see, that's the whole thing of creating that.

**Caleb:** Right, and it takes time. And also, you know, it's been tossed around, the saying lately that "Your body craves what you feed it." And they're talking in a literal sense, but I think that's true spiritually also. So, if we're constantly bombarding ourselves with, you know, very secularized content, that's kind of what we're going to gravitate towards.

**Pastor Arlie:** And I think if you kind of set up an intentional thing of like, what does God want to speak to me today? I mean, so you're kind of looking at His word in that way. I think you start to see it differently and you can begin to appreciate it differently as well.

**Caleb:** Yeah, absolutely. Well, thank you for investing your time with us today on CWC Dive Deep, and, Pastor Arlie, thanks for joining us today.

**Pastor Arlie:** Thank you. Good to be here.

**Caleb:** And thanks for investing your time with us on CWC Dive Deep. Join us next Monday as we continue to explore Core52. If you missed past episodes, you can check those out at [cwc.life](http://cwc.life) where you can catch up on our entire Core52 series and access all the resources you need to dive deep in your personal study or with your core group. Have a great week.

