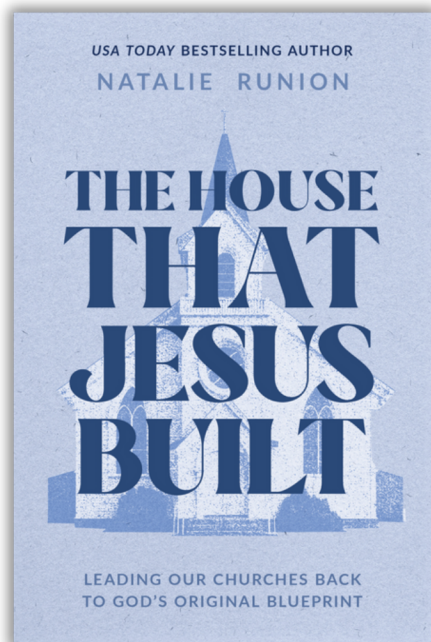




THE HOUSE THAT JESUS BUILT

Natalie Runion, Bestselling Author of *Raised to Stay*, Addresses Church Hurt, and Urges a Return to God's Blueprint for Healthy, Holy Churches



Colorado Springs, CO (April 30, 2024) - Jesus intended that his followers would follow his example, living as a holy and healthy community of faith. But how many church members – or church leaders – can honestly describe their church as holy and healthy?, 2024) - Jesus intended that his followers would follow his example, living as a holy and healthy community of faith. But how many church members – or church leaders – can honestly describe their church as holy and healthy?

Natalie Runion, the bestselling author of *Raised to Stay*, is the founder of an online community committed to their local churches regardless of the challenges. Now she offers a hope-filled, practical path forward for church leaders who are ready to rebuild after experiencing church hurt and disappointment. *The House that Jesus Built: Leading Our Churches Back to God's Original Blueprint* (September 2024) provides insight and encouragement to the “stayers,” those who are committed to rebuilding their churches from the inside out, brick by brick.

Runion believes rebuilding a church's culture must begin with personal revival and health: “When people ask where change in the church should begin, I always say it starts with me. We must get healthy as individuals before we can contribute to creating a healthy church culture. Without personal renewal, our churches cannot and will not function as Jesus intended.”

The House That Jesus Built boldly confronts areas where the Church has compromised the safety of the sheep while also describing a healthier way forward. With God's Word as the foundation, floor plan, and framework, Natalie points church leaders back to God's original blueprint for Christian community while acknowledging the real challenges.

Filled with practical applications and true stories, *The House That Jesus Built* equips readers to:

- ▶ Reengage their church community while acknowledging past hurt and disappointment
- ▶ Reflect honestly and accept accountability for contributing to pain in churches today
- ▶ Examine the foundations of the early church as they rebuild today's family of God
- ▶ Wrestle with their role within the Church while staying on mission
- ▶ Become unified on the foundation of Jesus Christ despite personal differences

The House That Jesus Built seeks to refresh each reader's vision for the modern church – to see churches as healthy, whole, and back on mission with the Great Commission and Great Command. As **Runion** reminds us, people “want a church they can live in and a Kingdom family they can live with.”

“When people ask me where change in the church can begin, I always say it starts with me. It's important for us to get healthy ourselves before we can contribute to creating a healthy church culture.”

-Natalie Runion

About Natalie Runion



Natalie Runion is the USA Today, Publishers Weekly, and ECPA bestselling author of *Raised to Stay: Persevering in Ministry When You Have a Million Reasons to Walk Away* and *The House That Jesus Built: Leading Our Churches Back to God's Original Blueprint* (September 2024). She is also the founder of Raised to Stay, an online community of over 161,000 "Stayers" who are honest in their wrestling about their relationship with Jesus and His Church.

A pastor's daughter from Cincinnati, Ohio, Natalie graduated from Miami University with a degree in education and has served as a pastor in the local church for over twenty years. She is a songwriter, worship leader, podcaster, and sought-after speaker at churches and conferences around the world.

Natalie lives in Kentucky with her husband, Tony, and their two daughters. Natalie and Tony work together to provide training and education to pastors and leaders in pursuit of a healthy and reconciled Church.



David C Cook is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to equipping the global church with leadership, discipleship, and worship resources to help Christians grow in faith and pass it along to the next generation. Read more about David C Cook and its global ministry outreach at www.davidccook.org.

The House That Jesus Built: Leading Our Churches Back to God's Original Blueprint

Paperback | Retail \$18.99 | Trim 5.5 x 8.25 | Pages 224
ISBN 978-0-8307-8671-8 | Pub Date September 3, 2024

For interview requests contact: Sarah Miller | sarah@mmpublicrelations.com | 903-690-2170

Excerpt from *The House That Jesus Built*

The last ten years have brought the largest deconstruction movement the Evangelical Church has seen in our lifetime. Movements and marketing campaigns coaxing people back into pews are no longer working. The man-made strategies and plans to get believers and non-believers through their doors aren't as effective as in decades past.

If hot coffee, donuts, and famous bands headlining Sunday morning services worked, our churches would be filled and overflowing. Nothing you and I have to offer in the flesh can rebuild the Church from this unprecedented destruction, and we're standing in the aftermath of our own doing. We've been off mission, and now God is demanding His House be brought back to order.

Cancel the back-to-church campaigns and slick programs. The foundation of the Church has been compromised. Our only option is to acknowledge the damage and invite Jesus back into His home to start the rebuilding process. This is a season of tearing down broken infrastructures and uprooting from barren soil.

We read in Ecclesiastes chapter 3 that there is a season for everything and in verse three, "a time to tear down and a time to build up." Deconstruction isn't the end of the Church; it is an opportunity and invitation to rebuild a Church with Jesus alongside our brothers and sisters in the faith desperate to see His Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.

It's time for the Kingdom builders to come out of hiding and begin surveying our current condition, with our blueprint in hand: the Word of God. Are you ready to partner with Jesus in His Church in a rapidly changing world carrying a never-changing Gospel?

Suggested Interview Questions

- Your first book, *Raised to Stay*, has powerfully resonated with readers. How has the book's impact influenced your ministry?
- Your new book is *The House that Jesus Built: Leading Our Churches Back to God's Original Blueprint*. How does this new title build on the message of your previous book, *Raised to Stay*?
- Do you see your new book as a response to the recent "great resignation" of church leaders?
- Rebuilding church culture from the inside sounds like an overwhelming undertaking. If church members and/or leaders realize they have strayed from God's blueprint, where do they begin?
- You write that building (or rebuilding) healthy, holy and safe churches will follow a similar process to building a house. How so?
- The concepts in *The House that Jesus Built* are rooted in your study of the book of Acts. What concept was most profound as you studied the apostles and the early church?
- How can someone faithfully serve in their local church if the church leader(s) don't have the healthiest leadership qualities or motives?
- You write that "many churches have spiritual orphans leading spiritual orphans. These leaders compromise their integrity and convictions to fit in, hurting and excluding others in the process." What does this look like in a local church?
- What do you mean by the term "rubblization," and how does it apply to the rebuilding of churches?
- You coined the phrase "The Wheel of Favor" to describe a particular style of church leadership. Tell us more.
- Worship is an integral part of a healthy church culture. What did that look like in the early Church, and what does it look like in churches today?
- What kinds of practical proofs reveal that a congregation is a healthy, purpose-filled church?
- When you describe churches that stay on mission, you highlight the three areas of assignment within the Great Commission. Tell us more about ministry within our own "Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria"?
- What encouragement can you offer to the church leaders and church members who have stayed as others – friends, family, coworkers – have left the church?

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