

“Built Different” Series

Echo Church | Year 1 Week 7 | February 15, 2026 | Rich Saunders Jr. |

“Expand” Part 1 “Don’t Spare” | Isaiah 54:1–5 NKJV

1 Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman,” says the LORD.

2 “Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes.

3 For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited.

4 “Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; For you will forget the shame of your youth, And will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore.

5 For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

Introduction

The word expand in its original context in verse three means to break over [limits] and increase. While the word that comes in verse two tells them to “enlarge” meaning to *enlarge limit of territory*. In this year of “It’s Possible” we must be reminded that increase is a part of our vocabulary and is not limited to merely financial gains and wealth. But there is something that God is trying to get us to understand. That when heaven gives a demand or a decree that we echo it on the earth.

This is why we are sitting here on today. Because when there is expansion there is also a moment of being uncomfortable. A moment that challenges what you thought you knew and who you trust.

Let’s dive further into our text on today.

Verse one Israel is pictured like a woman who couldn’t bear children, empty, disgraced, unable to produce a future. Their exile felt like barrenness. They had no land, no security, no “fruit.”

Meanwhile God commands joy before their circumstances change. Praise becomes a prophetic response to a promised reality.

God speaks to “dead places” in people and areas that feel unproductive, delayed, or shamed. This verse is not denial; it’s faith in God’s ability to create life where there was none.

Barrenness is not your identity; it’s a season God can overturn.

Then we get to verse two, and this is where we will park at for a moment. He tells them, the ones that was in a barren season. The one that wasn’t producing anything. Then one who felt as though where they were was as far as they could go. That the word that God spoke, they mis heard. They were no longer confident in what was spoken over their life.

That the word must have been for my neighbor. That there is no way that God would have called me into this season just to forget about me. That I feel like there’s more to me than this, but it seems as though this is it.

I know what he did for Sara but clearly, I’m not Sara. I’m empty. My house is empty. I’m even at a. Place of shame, because I prayed...out loud. I declared that God was going to do it. I told people and now..I have nothing to show for it.

We expect people to talk about us, and they probably do....but there’s this verse in Isaiah 54 that says No weapon...formed against me....

Shame has set in, delay has set in, we have become comfortable, (borderline complacent), what their eyes are showing them is the reality of this season yet God then tells them to enlarge the place of your tent, lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.

In their time, expanding your living space was done because your family is growing. It is a sign of restoration after you felt like your loss.

God is telling them to prepare for increase. Notice he is not telling them “I’ll bless you” he’s telling them to restructure for what I am sending you.

Here’s what we need to understand. Growth requires capacity. We must understand that God’s promises are real, but our tents are built for survival only.

We have just enough to be ok for our now and not our future. We have become so comfortable being small that the thought of growth and expansion seems like it’s for other people and not for us. We have adapted a “I’ll make it work” attitude instead of getting to work on expanding.

Expanding our faith. Our love for the word. Nothing against the memory verses that we learned as children but there must be a moment that we learn more scripture than “Jesus Wept”. We’d rather have all your money and leave you struggling and never give you the

word. Not here. Expansion is not just about wallets it's about what God is about to do in your life.

Understand this that *Provision often follows preparation*.

There are three things that he tells them in verse two after he says to expand. These are three things that we must apply as we expand:

“Do not spare”

This is the first thing that he says and I believe it is the foundation to expansion, he tells them basically, Don't hold back. Don't limit it. Don't restrain or prevent the expansion.

He saying to them, the people who had lived in restriction.

Because exile produces survival thinking. Survival thinking shrinks vision. So, when God says, “Do not spare,” He is saying:

Stop building like you're still in loss. Stop preparing like shortage is permanent. Stop structuring for survival when He's declared increase.

Here's what this looks like:

We Obey Publicly, But Not Fully.

We do what is visible. Post the verse but we delay letting go of image management.

We Wait for Confirmation When God Already Gave Instruction

There's a difference between discernment and delay.

Believers sometimes say: “I'm just praying about it.”

Conservative obedience says: “I'll move when I feel secure.”

Covenant obedience says: “I'll move because He spoke.”

We Build Vision Small Because of Past Pain

God said, Don't build small because you were hurt. Don't spare the expansion. We say, “I don't want to be disappointed again.”

It does not mean reckless hype. It does not mean irresponsible ambition. It does mean that When God speaks increase, don't limit your preparation because of past pain.

Some people enlarge the tent, But emotionally spare the vision.

Two questions to ponder today:

1. Am I building today as if God's promise is already in motion?

2. What am I still holding back that God is asking me not to spare?

Final Thought

If God said enlarge, why are you still building like you're bracing for loss? Don't spare the faith. Don't spare the stretch. Don't spare the surrender. Build like the promise is already moving.