

Bearing Our Burdens

In May 1884, construction began on the building that is considered the country's first skyscraper. The Home Insurance Company Building in Chicago included nine stories plus a basement and stood 138 feet tall. The architect was William Le Baron Jenney, who is credited with designing the first load-carrying structural frame. A steel frame carried the entire weight of the building instead of the walls bearing the structure's weight in the usual method.

The steel skeleton revolutionized American architecture and allowed greater numbers of people to live and work in downtown areas. The term *skyscraper* originally referred to buildings of 10 to 20 stories, but now is applied to high-rise buildings with more than 40 stories.

In the spiritual realm, the birth of Jesus revolutionized life by removing the burdens of the law and sin. Isaiah compares the Messiah's coming to the lifting of burdens from people's shoulders (Isaiah 9:4). The gift of salvation means we no longer have to carry the weight of our sins or the law's demands.

If we feel overburdened, it's because we are bearing a load we aren't meant to carry. God never intended for us to have the weight of the world on our shoulders. It's His job to be in control of the universe – not ours. God also doesn't want us to carry around the backbreaking load of our past. Our sins are forgiven and forgotten if we have repented. Jesus offers to take our heavy burdens and give us an easy and light one – a life of following Him (Matthew 11:28-30).

When we let Jesus bear our heavy burdens and we concentrate on loving and obeying Him, then the sky is the limit on how far we can go in our spiritual life.

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burdens. Psalm 68:19

--Beecher Hunter