



## "Is YOUR Foundation Solid?"

**Matthew 7:24: (NKJV)** "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:"

No matter who we are and no matter what it is we may believe in, we always have some kind of foundation that our beliefs are built upon. Sometimes that foundation is weak and sometimes it is very strong. Just because you are a follower of Christ doesn't automatically mean that your foundation is solid. How do I know that? Jesus himself taught a lesson on this very point and it is this very point that we are going to discuss. Stay with us as we look into the parable of the wise and foolish builders and try to determine just what makes a solid foundation for a follower of Christ to build a life upon!

### Questions for consideration:

1. Who is this particular parable speaking of?
2. What are the sayings to which Jesus is referring?
3. What are the results of building on the two different types of foundations?

### 1. Who is this particular parable speaking of?

**First the parable from two different Gospels:**

**Matthew 7:24-27: (NKJV)** <sup>24</sup>"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup>and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup>"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup>and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."



**Luke 6:47-49: (NKJV)** <sup>47</sup>"Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: <sup>48</sup>He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>49</sup>But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

**Matthew 7:24 begins with "Therefore" - this tells us that the immediately preceding context should help us to identify who is being addressed:**

**Matthew 7:21-23: (NKJV)** <sup>21</sup>"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup>Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' <sup>23</sup>And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"



### Observations:

- All in this context claim to be following Jesus;
- Some in this context have done great things in Jesus' name;



- In spite of the “wonders” performed in Jesus' name, they were not true followers of Christ!

What can we learn from this? Discipleship is *doing* God's will and not merely words and actions! It is important to have fortitude and courage to keep moving forward. Jesus was after what was on the inside. The story of David and Goliath is a good example with David's solid foundation.

### Is this thought born out in the parable?

Matthew 7:24: (NKJV) “Therefore whoever **hears** these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:”

Matthew 7:26: (NKJV) “But everyone who **hears** these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:”

**Greek-English Lexicon:** to hear; to attend to, consider what is or has been said; to understand, perceive the sense of what is said

“By their fruits ye shall know them.”  
These fruits are the true development of Christ's likeness. Sometimes you have to watch a tree a full year in order to see the fruits come out.



John 14:22-24: (NKJV) “<sup>22</sup>Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?” <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will **keep** My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. <sup>24</sup>He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.”

**Greek-English Lexicon:** To “keep” God's words means:  
“to attend to carefully, take care of, to guard”

Matthew 12:48-50: (NKJV) “<sup>48</sup>But He answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” <sup>49</sup>And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! <sup>50</sup>For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.””

Doing the will of the Father creates an attachment to Jesus, closer than any earthly bond. He used his physical family as an example, that doing the Father's will means you are Jesus' family.

James 1:21-26: (NKJV) “<sup>21</sup>Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup>For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. <sup>25</sup>But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. <sup>26</sup>If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.”

As a Christian, being a “doer” of the Word (notice, not necessarily a doer of mighty deeds) is the only genuine existence, the ability to build upon a strong foundation.



1 John 5:3-5: (NKJV) *"<sup>3</sup>For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup>For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"*

We can only truly experience the love of God by "keeping" (holding onto, tending carefully, taking care of by guarding) His commandments.

Obviously, the two classes of the "who" in this parable is a major point for understanding this lesson.



#### Observations:

- Both classes had received the Word;
- Both classes had been moved and blessed by the Word;
- As a result, both classes had a responsibility to the Word;
- Both classes were held accountable for their application of the Word.

## 2. What are the sayings to which Jesus is referring?

Matthew 7:24: (NKJV) *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:"*

Matthew 7:26: (NKJV) *"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:"*

#### Back to the beginning of the context:

Matthew 4:25: (NRSV) *"And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan."*

Matthew 5:1-2: (NRSV) *<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:"*

#### All of the following are the words of Jesus and therefore are the words of his Father:

John 12:49-50: (NKJV) *"<sup>49</sup>For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. <sup>50</sup>And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."*



1 Corinthians 3:11:  
(New Living) *"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have - Jesus Christ."*





Here are the "sayings" of Jesus, called the Beatitudes (or Be-Attitudes!). He was speaking to his disciples, but the crowds are listening in.

**Matthew 5:1-16: (NRSV)** *"<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup>"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. <sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. <sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

**Brotherly concern before piety:**

**Matthew 5:23-24: (NRSV)** *"<sup>23</sup>So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift."*

**Love your enemies: (Simple but difficult!)**

**Matthew 5:38-48: (NRSV)** *"<sup>38</sup>You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' <sup>39</sup>But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; <sup>40</sup>and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; <sup>41</sup>and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. <sup>42</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. <sup>43</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup>For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup>And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup>Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*

Jesus instructed us to rise to a level above which people don't normally rise. These are the sayings of Jesus that must be done in order to show we are building our structure on a solid foundation.



### Practice your holiness in secret:

**Matthew 6:1-8:** (NRSV) *"<sup>1</sup>Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup>So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup>And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>7</sup>When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him."*

### Store your treasure where your heart is - in Heaven:

**Matthew 6:19-21:** (NRSV) *"<sup>19</sup>Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

### Don't worry about the things of this world - instead seek God first:

**Matthew 6:31-34:** (NRSV) *"<sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup>So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."*

### Do not judge in a manner that you do not want to be judged:

**Matthew 7:1-5:** (NRSV) *"<sup>1</sup>Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. <sup>2</sup>For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. <sup>3</sup>Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? <sup>4</sup>Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? <sup>5</sup>You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye."*

We don't want to be judged recklessly.

Ask of God who gives generously: (but don't take this out of context with these other Scriptures.)

**Matthew 7:7-11:** (NRSV) *"<sup>7</sup>Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>8</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>9</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? <sup>11</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"*



## The Golden Rule:

**Matthew 7:12:** (NRSV) *"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets."*

## Take "the road less traveled" in your search for God:

**Matthew 7:13-16:** (NRSV) *"<sup>13</sup>Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. <sup>14</sup>For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it. <sup>15</sup>Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup>You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles?"*

## God will judge based on our doing His will, not doing things of an impressive nature:

**Matthew 7:21-23:** (NRSV) *"<sup>21</sup>Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup>On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' <sup>23</sup>Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.'"*

Jesus led a very simple but very focused life. So we have the words - lots of words - and lots of teachings that require much more than a passing interest or a "Sunday go to Meeting" attitude to truly keep. Just going to church on Sunday doesn't make us "okay." Jesus is addressing those of us who have been given the opportunity to hear and hold closely his words.

### 3. What are the results of building on the two different types of foundations?

Let's look at the foolish builders first:

#### The results of the "storm" upon the foolish:

**Matthew 7:26-27:** (NKJV) *"<sup>26</sup>But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: <sup>27</sup>and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."*

(Source: "Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible", Robert Jamieson, A.R. Fausset and David Brown, 1871) And the rain descended—from above and the floods came—from below and the winds blew—sweeping across and beat upon that house—thus from every direction.

There is a complete onslaught of natural events that come and test the house. The house under duress of the test does not stand a chance.

(Source: Bible commentary by C. Russell) "His house" — Faith structure. "Upon the sand" — foundations of human tradition, man-made theories of ignorance, doctrines of demons.

**1 Timothy 4:1-3:** (NRSV) *"<sup>1</sup>Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will renounce the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, <sup>2</sup>through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared with a hot iron. <sup>3</sup>They forbid marriage and*



*demand abstinence from foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth."*

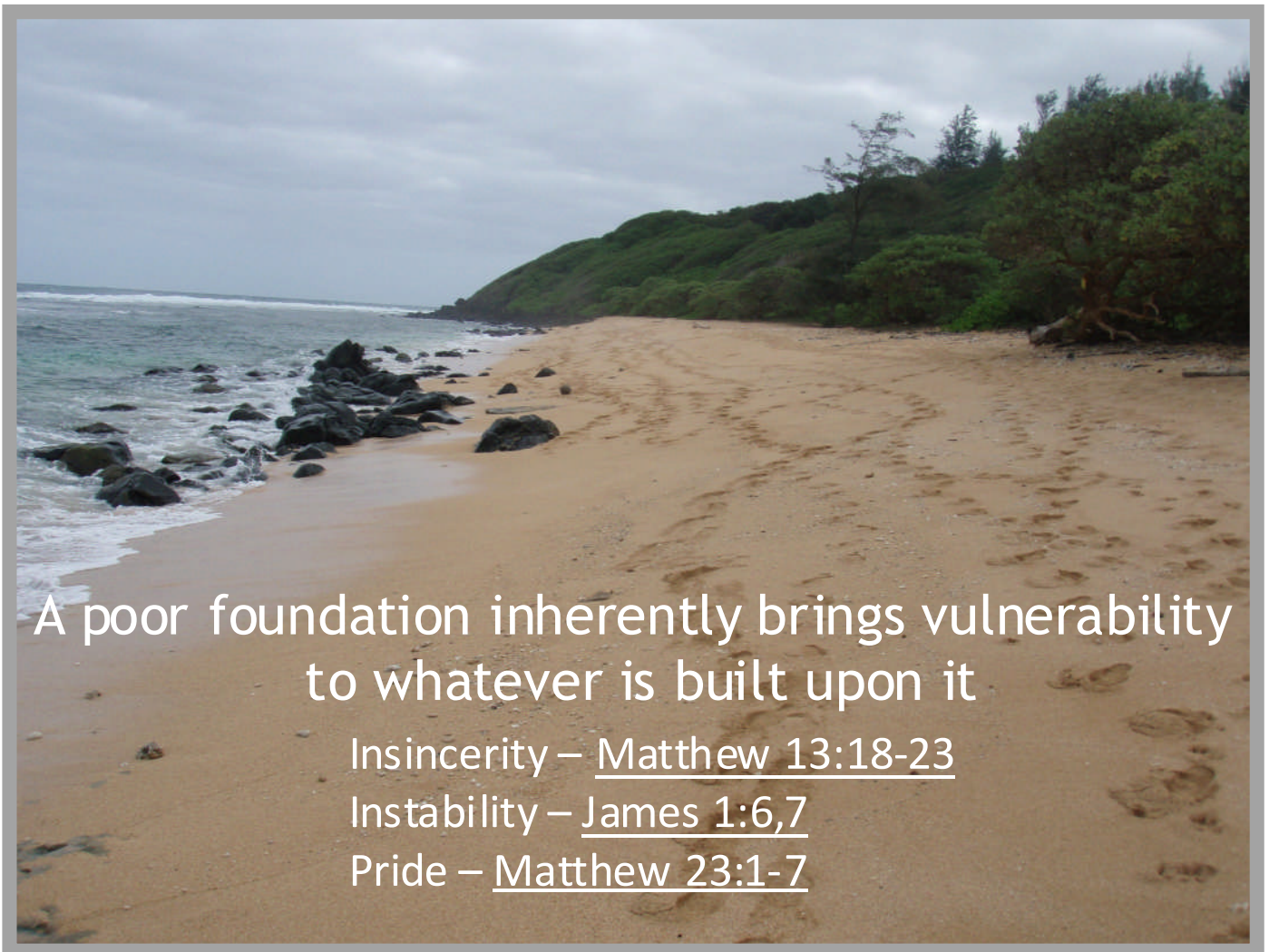
There are those who once had the chance to stand on a solid foundation but preferred the teachings of other things.

1 Corinthians 3:13: (NKJV) *"each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is."*

What you build will be tested.

Isaiah 28:16-17: (NKJV) *"<sup>16</sup>Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily. <sup>17</sup>Also I will make justice the measuring line, and righteousness the plummet; The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters will overflow the hiding place."*

It sounds like Jesus took the basis for the parable from this Scripture.



A poor foundation inherently brings vulnerability to whatever is built upon it

Insincerity – Matthew 13:18-23

Instability – James 1:6,7

Pride – Matthew 23:1-7



A poor foundation inherently brings vulnerability to whatever is built upon it.

### Insincerity:

**Matthew 13:18-23:** (NRSV) <sup>18</sup>Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The bolded verses are those that received the Word and were excited, but they don't do the necessary work to build on the substantial foundation offered by the Word.

### Instability:

**James 1:6-7:** (NRSV) <sup>6</sup>But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; <sup>7</sup>for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord."

### Stay firm!

### Pride:

**Matthew 23:1-7:** (NRSV) <sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup>"The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; <sup>3</sup>therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. <sup>4</sup>They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. <sup>5</sup>They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. <sup>6</sup>They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup>and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi."

If we do things for the sake of being seen and lauded, we should enjoy it because it is all we will get. Christianity isn't about fame and being noticed; it is about being faithful.

There are a variety of consequences for the one who has been given the precious words of Jesus to build upon, but who does not build his faith on the depth of the words; but rather likes the look of the words and builds on other things.

"...and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

These are essentially "nominal Christians," those in name only.

### The results of the "storm" upon the wise:

**Matthew 7:24-25:** (NKJV) <sup>24</sup>Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: <sup>25</sup>and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."



### The foundation of rock = Christ:

**Matthew 16:13-18:** (NRSV) <sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it."

### Christ as a true foundation brings:

Firmness of Faith - Colossians 2:5-8

Depth of Understanding - 2 Timothy 2:15-22

Clarity of Vision - 1 Peter 1:3-7

Acceptance of Responsibility - Galatians 6:7-9

Application of Knowledge - James 1:22-27

Focus on Sacrifice - Romans 12:1-2

Life Right in God's Sight - Hebrews 12:11-12

### Christ as a true foundation brings:

#### A firmness of faith that the storms of life cannot soften!

**Colossians 2:5-8:** (NRSV) <sup>5</sup>For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ. <sup>6</sup>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ."



### **A depth of understanding that the storms of life cannot reach!**

2 Timothy 2:15-22: (NRSV) <sup>15</sup>*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.* <sup>16</sup>*Avoid profane chatter, for it will lead people into more and more impiety, <sup>17</sup>and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, <sup>18</sup>who have swerved from the truth by claiming that the resurrection has already taken place. They are upsetting the faith of some. <sup>19</sup>But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who calls on the name of the Lord turn away from wickedness."* <sup>20</sup>*In a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for special use, some for ordinary. <sup>21</sup>All who cleanse themselves of the things I have mentioned will become special utensils, dedicated and useful to the owner of the house, ready for every good work. <sup>22</sup>Shun youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."*

### **A clarity of vision that the storms of life cannot blur!**

1 Peter 1:3-7: (NRSV) <sup>3</sup>*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith--being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."*

### **An acceptance of responsibility that the storms of life cannot influence!**

Galatians 6:7-9: (NRSV) <sup>7</sup>*Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. <sup>8</sup>If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. <sup>9</sup>So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up."*

### **An application of knowledge that the storms of life cannot dilute!**

James 1:22-27: (NRSV) <sup>22</sup>*But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act--they will be blessed in their doing. <sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."*

**True Christianity doesn't fit with the morality around us.**

### **A focus on sacrifice that the storms of life cannot delude!**

Romans 12:1-2: (NKJV) <sup>1</sup>*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

### **A life that is right in the sight of God that the storms of life cannot touch!**

Hebrews 12:11-12: (NKJV) <sup>11</sup>*Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. <sup>12</sup>Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,"*



Malachi 3:3: (NRSV) *"he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness."*

