



What Have You Built YOUR Life Upon?

Matthew 7:24: (NASB) *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.*



Life can be likened to a house. Some houses are spacious and elegant - people tend to notice them when they go by. Some houses are smaller, functional and more basic - people tend to look past them when they go by. When you think about it, whether the house is elegant or basic, the most important part of it is its foundation. What that foundation is made of and built upon has a direct bearing on how long that house is able to endure. What about YOUR life? What is your foundation made of and what is it built upon? Is your Christian life able to weather any storm?

Jesus uttered the parable of the solid foundation in a very detailed context of clear teachings to his followers. The Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke both record this parable.

We will read and discuss a compilation of these two Gospels to try and get the full meaning: Luke 6:46-49: (NASB) and Matthew 7:24-27: (NASB) *Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say? Therefore everyone who comes to me and hears these words of mine and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: (he) may be compared to a wise man who dug deep and laid a foundation, who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, because it had been well built, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand, on the ground without any foundation; The rain fell, and the torrent burst against it and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and immediately it collapsed and great was its fall and the ruin of that house.*



Now an overview of the context: First, there are great crowds listening but Jesus focuses on his disciples.

Matthew 4:25: (NRSV) *And great crowds followed him...* Matthew 5:1-2: (NRSV) ¹...he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying...

He begins by teaching his disciples (and us!) the cause and effect of godly attributes called the Beatitudes:

Matthew 5:3: (NASB) *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Jesus moves on to teaching about how to properly and humbly apply holiness in our lives:

Matthew 5:23-24: (NRSV) ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go...



Practice your holiness in secret:

Matthew 6:1-8: (NRSV) *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.*



Break poverty, Prayer for Finances, Prosperity and Financial Release, Agapekind

- *(Dramatically) In the name of Jesus, I break all assignments of the enemy against my finances. In the mighty name of Jesus, I break all curses of poverty of lack, debt and failure. In the name of Jesus, I seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto me according to Matthew 6:13. I rebuke and cast out all spirits of the cankerworm, the palmerworm, the caterpillars and the locust that would eat up my blessings in the name of Jesus. Lord, teach me to profit and lead me in the way I should go. You are Jehovah-jireh, my provider; you are El Shaddai, the God of more than enough. Wealth and riches are in my house because I fear you in the light greatly and your commandments. The blessing of the Lord is upon my life. You maketh rich and add no sorrow. I am blessed coming in and blessed going out. I am God's servant and He takes pleasure in my prosperity.*

There is a lot of "I" in there - "I have," "I get," "I am." What is your foundation if that is your prayer?

Jesus next teaches us to realize that to be holy we need to identify what our true treasure in life is:

Matthew 6:19-21: (NRSV) *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 6:33: (NRSV) *But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

What is the real deep-seated problem Jesus addresses with this story?

Part of holiness is not judging others in a manner that you do not want to be judged:

Matthew 7:1-2: (NRSV) *¹Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. ²For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.*

Holiness means we can ask of God who gives generously.

Matthew 7:7: (NRSV) *Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.*

But what are you supposed to ask for and what will you receive?

Holiness means we will live by 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.*

Holiness means we take "the road less traveled" in our search for God.

Matthew 7:13: (NRSV) *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.*

Holiness means loyalty only to God's will:

Matthew 7:21: (NRSV) *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.*



Summing up, Jesus taught us to be bright and shining lights of mercy, humility, kindness and loyalty. He taught us many aspects of what it means to be holy.

It is here our parable begins with a profoundly important verse only found in Luke:

Luke 6:46: (NASB) *Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?*

This cites a grave problem and prophecy of what would come to hinder Christianity through the ages:

(Source: John Gill's Exposition of Bible Commentary) *And why call ye me Lord, Lord, etc. or, "my Lord, my Lord," as the Syriac version renders it; acknowledging, in words, his government over them; claiming an interest in him, and making use of his name and authority.*

How do we actually build upon Jesus' name and authority and not just give it lip service? An enormous percentage of Christianity, in our opinion, talk about the name of Jesus but do not actually "live" the name of Jesus.

 **You should prosper, *God's Promise to Prosper You #1, Jerry Savelle***

- If you want to know what God's will is regarding prosperity then go to the word of God, and if you find in here anywhere where it says, "I would that you fail, and I hope that you live in defeat and My best is for you to live in poverty," and that would be the will of God. But I have good news for you. You will not find that in this book. Amen! You're not going to find anything close to that in this book. So, God will never say anything in His word and then will the opposite. Do you understand that? He's not going to say something in His word and then His will be the opposite of that. That's why you should settle it once and for all that God's word is final authority in your life.*

Hmmm....what about the rich young ruler who asked Jesus what he had to do in order to inherit the kingdom? Jesus told him to give away everything, take up his cross and follow him - a life of sacrifice. Rather than try to "spin" the Scriptures, let's take them in the context in which they are given.



Observing similarities of both "builders":

- Both hear the words of Jesus.
- Both are moved by his words - they follow him, but each in a different way.
- Both build a house - they both build a life inspired by Jesus' words.
- Both are tested with rain, flood and wind.
- Both end up with results that are directly related to what their house - their life - was truly built upon.



This is a story that truly shows us the difference between true and false Christianity. What we produce in our lives can look the same, but when the difficult tests come, it will be revealed as to what is underneath.



A word against false Christianity:

2 Timothy 2:15-19: (NASB) ¹⁵Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. ¹⁶But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, ¹⁷and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some. ¹⁹Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, The Lord knows those who are His, and, everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.



Hey Rick and Jonathan, thank you for the Bible study! I've just been listening to the program from last Sunday. ("How is Jesus The Truth? Part II") Once again I am struck by the picture of God's incredible faithfulness shown time and time again in His word to us. HIS WORD ROCKS from beginning to end! I especially love the way the Old Testament and New Testament act to authenticate each other in order to paint that picture so clearly. You did a beautiful job of pointing that out. Thank you so much for all the work you have done for this series. I am really looking forward to "Part 3 - Jesus is the Life."

What is meant by the symbols in the story - the rock, sand, rain, flood and the wind?

This parable is one of the few specifically spoken to Jesus' followers, so it is NOT typical. Most were spoken to outsiders and were purposely difficult to grasp - this parable gives us plenty of background for understanding.

The previous verses in Matthew:

Matthew 7:21-23: (NASB) ²¹Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven will enter.

There is a firm warning here! IT IS ALL ABOUT LIVING GOD'S WILL - NOT JUST REPEATING IT!

²²Many will say to me on that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name cast out demons, and in your name perform many miracles? ²³And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.

Just because one may look like a Christian, does not mean they are living true to Christianity!

The previous verse from Luke:

Luke 6:45: (NASB) The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

What lives in one's heart truly determines what one's life will stand for! Jesus sets the groundwork for today's parable with practical teachings of the goodness and holiness he is looking for vs. a pseudo, self-centered holiness.

 Jesus poor so I am rich, **Prayer for Finances, Prosperity and Financial Release, Agapekind**

- Jesus, you became poor that through your poverty I might be rich. I meditate on the Word day and night and whatever I do prospers. Let peace be within my walls and prosperity within my palace. I will prosper through the prophets and prophetic ministry according to Ezra 6:14. I believe the prophets and I prosper. And I prosper according to 2 Chronicles 20:20. Lord, I am your



servant, prosper me. The God of Heaven will prosper me. I live in the prosperity of the kingdom. Through Your favor, I will be a prosperous person. Lord, You have called me and You will make my way prosperous.

We believe this takes Scriptures out of context and mixes them up like shuffling a deck of cards - this is not the way we should look at the Bible. Did you notice how many times the word "prosper" was used? "God, just send me a check." But that is not even remotely how it works.



Let's break down the Parable into discussion points:

Luke 6:46: (NASB) *Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?*

Symbols of the Parable: Rock, Sand, Rain, Torrent, Winds – Not Typical!

Rock - The foundation of Jesus Christ himself. He is The Way, The Truth and The Life!

Sand - The things of this earth; foundations of human tradition. The word for *sand* in Matthew is the same word used to describe *the sands of the seashore* in the Abrahamic promise. The word for *ground* in the Luke account is often used to describe the earth.

Rain - Water is often a symbol for truth in Scripture. Water is here used to severely test and shake the good house and aids in collapsing the foundationless house. Truth would not severely test a house/life built on Christ; it would make it stronger. *What if* the rain in this instance is the false teachings of Satan - truth corrupted - those things that appear to be Christian truth but in fact are nothing more than deceptions designed to destroy? "Truth" can be falsified. Real truth in this parable is shown in Jesus' initial statement - *Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?* What Jesus says IS truth!

True Christianity is not about great abundance of material things.

Torrent - A flood. Perhaps this represents Satan's evil influence pouring down on this earth so thoroughly and so torrentially that it causes overflow of natural earthly rivers that are normally life-giving and makes them torrents of destruction - beating and battering all things good in its path.

Winds - The storms and trials of this world - here again we sometimes see the wind as a symbol for God's Spirit - God's unseen power and influence. In this parable we can perhaps look at the wind in the same vain as water - a false



and unseen power of the spirit of Satan, designed to destroy anything that is holy in God's sight.



A caller from Connecticut suggests: When we see a beautiful house, do we say, what a beautiful foundation?

2 Peter 1:5: *And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge.*

The size and shape of a house is dictated by the size and shape of the foundation.

Luke 6:46-47: (NASB) and Matthew 7:24: (NASB) *Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say? Therefore everyone who comes to me and hears these words of mine and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like.*

There is a three-part process here:



Matthew 11:28-30: (NASB) ²⁸*Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.* ²⁹*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* ³⁰*For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

Coming to Jesus is easy and attractive! Many have come and will come. But what are they coming for and what do they do once they get there? That is what differentiates true from false followers of Christ.



Mark 4:10-12: (NASB) ¹⁰*As soon as he was alone, his followers, along with the twelve, began asking him about the parables.* ¹¹*And he was saying to them, to you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables,* ¹²*so that while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and while hearing, they may hear and not understand, otherwise they might return and be forgiven.*

Hearing Jesus is not just about the auditory experience; it is about absorbing and applying his teaching.



John 13:12-17: (NASB) ¹²So when he had washed their feet, and taken his garments and reclined at the table again, he said to them, do you know what I have done to you? ³You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

To do what Jesus taught is a lifelong learning experience. It starts with humility which grows into selflessness, which in turn grows into holiness.

 **Wicked's wealth to me, Prayer for Finances, Prosperity and Financial Release, Agapekind**

- *I pray in secret and You reward me openly. I fast in secret and You reward me openly. You reward me because I diligently seek You. You will reward me because I diligently seek You. Lord, release the wealth of the wicked into my hands according to Proverbs 13:22. Lord, bring me into a wealthy place. I give and it is given to me good measure, pressed out, shaken together and running over. Open the floodgates of heaven over my life, and I will receive more than I have enough room to receive according to Malachi 3:10. Let every hole in my back be closed in the name of Jesus. Rebuke the devourer for my sake!*

This is not what the Scriptures teach! This is not how to build our lives upon the foundation of Christ.

Luke 6:48: (NASB) and **Matthew 7:24:** (NASB) (he) may be compared to a wise man who dug deep and laid a foundation, who built his house on the rock.

This three-part process produces a wise builder!

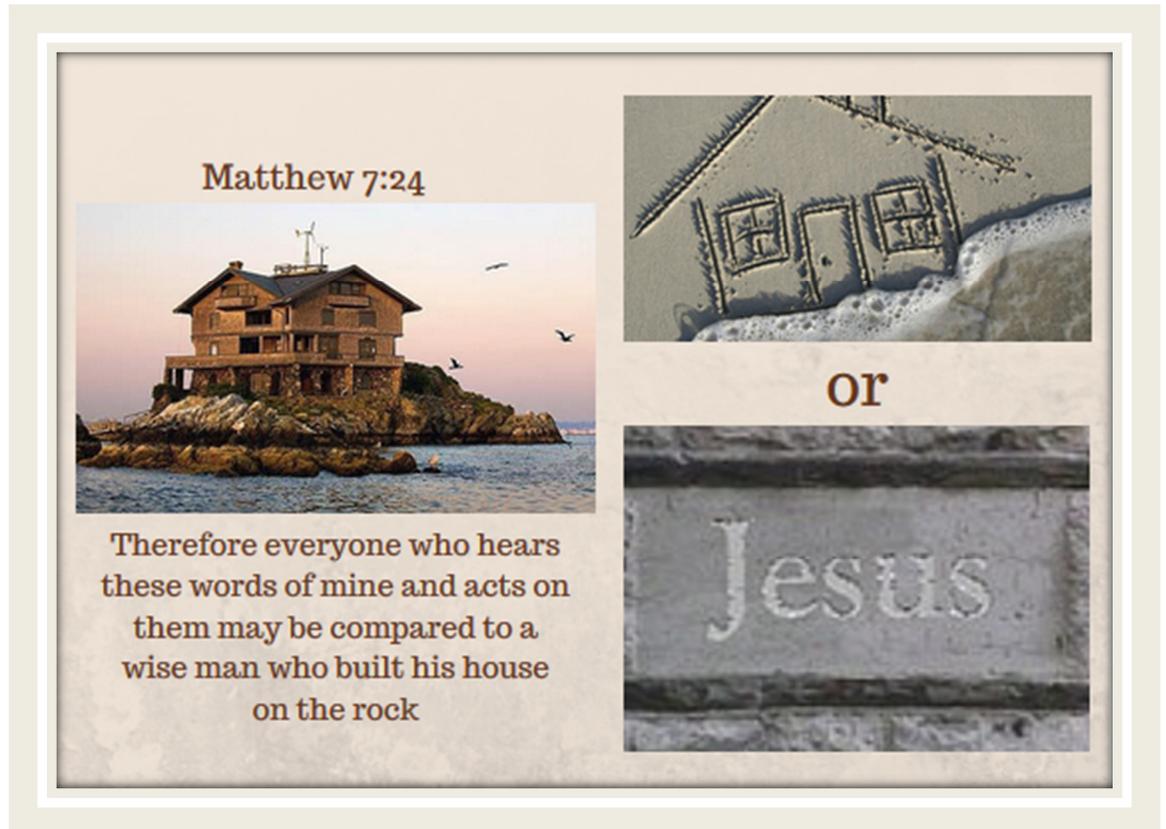
1 Corinthians 3:9-14: (NASB) ⁹For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹For no man can lay a foundation other than the one, which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴If any man's work, which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.

Spiritual wisdom is building all of our life on the sole and solid foundation of Jesus - no more, no less. What we build will be tested. We must build with the right things and on the right foundation.



What happens when the dark powers of Satan are unleashed on a true Christian life?

Luke 6:48: (NASB) and Matthew 7:25: (NASB) *And the rain fell, and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, because it had been well built, for it had been founded on the rock.*



How can we tell if we are building on the right foundation? If you are building on the rock of anyone other than Jesus, you need to move! The message is one of love, character and selflessness.

The last phrase of this portion of the parable is the key to any and all success any Christian can ever hope to have:

Romans 8:35-39: (NASB) ³⁵*Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?* ³⁶*Just as it is written, for your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.*

We must know what our life, our "house," is all about. Once we accept the sacrificial nature of our Christian walk, we can then fully embrace our deliverance in Christ. If we do not accept our walk as sacrificial as opposed to one of abundance of wealth and comfort, our house is built on the wrong foundation.

³⁷*But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.* ³⁸*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,* ³⁹*nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*



This promise only holds true if we are building our foundation on the sacrificial walk and character of Jesus.

Know your enemy and prepare accordingly!

Ephesians 6:10-13: (NASB) ¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. (Not of man's traditions and rituals) ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

James 1:17, God doesn't change, God's Promise to Prosper You #1, Jerry Savelle

- Adam and Eve had blown it, but God's plan didn't change. The latter part of James 1:17 we read earlier where "every good and perfect gift comes from God," but the latter part of that verse says, "in whom there is no variableness neither shadow of turning." New International Version says, "who does not change," so notice here the will of God for man didn't change even though man blew it. Amen? So, what does that say? That the will of God for you and me is the same today as it was for Adam before sin came. Isn't that good news? Praise God! Because God doesn't change. His plan didn't change and that's the reason He pronounced that blessing on Noah and his sons. His heart yearned for man to live the abundant life which He originally created for him. That's why later He introduced himself to a man by the name of Abram and the first thing he says to Abram? I will bless thee.

Once Adam sinned, God wanted him to learn the lesson of sin. God wanted Adam to feel sweat, toil and the pain of sin. God's approach does change to fulfill His will, which does not change. Christianity often misses this point.



A CQ App user suggests: Isn't one way to know we are "on the rock" is to examine our lives to see if we are living a life a sacrificial love for others like Christ did rather than thinking of ourselves, a selfish life that is prevalent today?

We have been given a significant support system so our own personal weaknesses do not create fatal vulnerabilities in the structure of our Christian life. Sometimes we are inherently weak.

Ephesians 4:11-15: (NASB) ¹¹And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into him who is the head, even Christ.

This talks about the maturity of the entire body of Christ. To become mature, we, as part of the body, have to work together. This strong support system helps us not be tossed about *by every wind of doctrine*. What God wants for us is often so different than what we want for ourselves, but He knows what is best for our highest spiritual welfare - not our temporal comforts.



A caller from Pennsylvania suggests: How do you know that you are building on the right foundation? James 1:4-6: *Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.*

Bottom line...live your belief! We will not find spiritual answers from worldly things.

If we do not, the storm of Satan’s influence will find your weaknesses:

James 1:22-25: (NASB) *But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.*

Not merely hearers who delude themselves - When we build our Christian house, it will be tested by Satan, who wants nothing more than to topple the house of someone who professes the name of Christ.

What about those who do NOT build on Christ, but build a similar looking house/life?

Let’s look at those who do NOT do what Jesus says:

Luke 6:48-49: (NASB) and Matthew 7:26-27: (NASB) *Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand on the ground without any foundation; The rain fell, and the torrent burst against, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and immediately it collapsed –and great was its fall and the ruin of that house.*



Notice the first step in the process - coming to Jesus - is missing - perhaps this shows a lack of true devotion and focus. They hear and build but have not come to a place where they see a need to dig down for a solid foundation.

Building on the sand is symbolic of building things on top of this world. We cannot build a Christian life on the foundation of the things of this world. The two do not mix.

There is a great similarity to another Parable:

Matthew 13:18-22: (NRSV) *Hear then the parable of the sower. 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.*

Satan is ready to interfere with anyone focused on Jesus...



²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet 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. ²²As 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.

Each example here was one of shortsighted feelings towards Christ rather than a humble acceptance of the will of God through Christ. Satan’s storms come in many different ways!

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

Double-mindedness indicates a lack of true devotion and loyalty.

 **Decree and declare, Prayer for Finances, Prosperity and Financial Release, Agapekind**

- *Let me lay up gold as dust. Let me have plenty of silver. Let your river lead me to gold. Let me inherit the land. I refuse to allow the angel of blessing to depart without blessing me. In the mighty name of Jesus. Father God, Your word declares that we shall decree a thing and it shall be established unto us. Father God according to Your word upon which we stand on, we decree and declare that your word is yea and amen. The words, which will declare, shall begin to activate. Shall begin to move. Shall begin to create. Create a miracle. It is done, hallelujah. We shall not lack any good thing according to Your word.*

The problem with this “prayer” is it is all about the one praying and not the will of God! It is not built upon the foundation of Christ, but rather upon the foundation of “ME.”

Those who seek abundance forcefully often use the phrase “decree and declare.” This is a complete misrepresentation of Scripture. Please refer to the Bonus Material for more on this point.

Matthew 23:1-7: (NRSV) ¹Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; ³therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. ⁴They 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. ⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. ⁶They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi.

This sounds like Christian leaders today who draw attention to themselves. This is not what true Christianity is about. Hypocrisy is a sign of an unholy heart. There are many “Christianity-like” foundations today that may look and sound like Christianity, but when you really dig down - what are they built on? If they are built on anything other than the solid foundation of Scripture and Jesus Christ, they are NOT Christianity. Jesus himself said, *I do not know you, you workers of lawlessness.* That is how serious this is.



Finally, a prophecy that firmly suggests pseudo-Christian characteristics as our temptations today!

2 Timothy 3:1-5: (NRSV) ¹You must understand this that in the last days distressing times will come. ²For people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, brutes, haters of good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵holding to the outward form of godliness but denying its power. **Avoid them!**

Outward forms of godliness are merely tools of self-deception, blessed and approved by Satan.

Is your “house” in danger of being swept away by the flood of satanic deceit and the pounding winds of satanic influence in our lives? Or is your house going to stand firm against such trouble and testings because it is built upon a foundation that will not be shaken?

Satan’s influence is incredibly powerful, but the power and foundation of Christ is bigger and stronger and eternally lasting. Are we truly devoted and loyal to that foundation?

*So, what have you built your life upon?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



First, the separate renderings of each Matthew and Luke parable:

Matthew 7:24-27: (NRSV) ²⁴Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell - and great was its fall!

Luke 6:46-49: (NASB) ⁴⁶Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.

A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him.
— *David Brinkley*

Second, here is another Scripture on the discipline of holiness:

1 Corinthians 9:24-27: (NASB) ²⁴Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.



Third, What is the source for decreeing and declaring that so many Christians claim as a method of prayer?

Most sources point to the following text:

Job 22:28: (KJV) *Thou shalt also **decree <1504>** a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.*

Decree: Strongs #1504, to cut down or off; (figuratively) to destroy, divide, exclude or decide: cut down (off), decree, divide, snatch

The following is a New Testament "declaration:"

Acts 15:4: (KJV) *And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.*

Decree and declare? Here is the context of the "decree command" that some use:

Job 22:1-5: (NRSV) *¹Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered: ²Can a mortal be of use to God? Can even the wisest be of service to him? ³Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are righteous, or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless? ⁴Is it for your piety that he reproves you, and enters into judgment with you? ⁵Is not your wickedness great? There is no end to your iniquities.*

Once Eliphaz lectures Job on how evil he thinks he must be, he then says repent!

Job 22:21-23, 27, 28: (KJV) *²¹Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee. ²²Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart. ²³If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles... ²⁷Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows. ²⁸Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.*

God here challenges Job and the perspective on what we "declare":

Job 38:1-4: (NRSV) *¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: ²Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. ⁴Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.*

After being challenged by God, Job now sees the greatness of God and repents - not of evil living, but of his doubts.

Job 42:1-6: (NRSV) *¹Then Job answered the LORD: ²I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you declare to me. ⁵I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*

So, the text that declares we decree is in fact an example of what not to do.

Job 42:7: (NASB) *It came about after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz... My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has.*



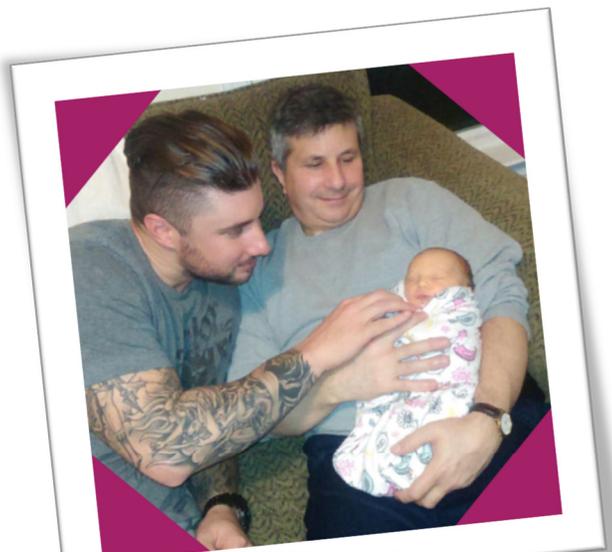
Here is the attitude of prayer to strive for:
Luke 18:9-14: (NRSV) *⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income. ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner! ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.*



The new addition to Grandpa Rick's family this week!



Congratulations Rick & Tricia



God bless you!