The Vital Importance of a Firm Foundation

Solid buildings have firm foundations built to the master architect’s specifications. The more solid the foundation, the less likely the building is to suffer damage from storms, earthquakes, or the settling of the earth with the passage of time. To be able to withstand the storms of adversity that are sure to come, a Christian must build his life on a firm foundation of true Bible Doctrine.

GOLDEN TEXT:
Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken to a wise man which built his house upon a rock.
Matthew 7:24

SCRIPTURE TEXTS:

MATTHEW 7:22-27
22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.
24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:
25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.
26 And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:
27 And the rain descended and the floods came and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

LUKE 6:46-49
46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?
47 Whosoever cometh to me and heareth my sayings and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:
48 He is like a man which built an house and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it; for it was founded upon a rock.
49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

HEBREWS 6:1,2
1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,
2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

INTRODUCTION:

We MUST understand the importance of establishing our lives on a sure foundation. If a building is to be useful, sturdy and permanent, it must be built on a solid base. Whenever men erect buildings, they must pay close attention to the proper preparation of the foundation. Since this is a fact which every good builder understands, God used it to teach us Divine truth. Every part of a building depends upon the foundation for support. The Bible speaks of our lives as buildings and tells us the kind of foundation upon which we must build if we are to build sound Christian lives.

I. WHAT DID THE LORD JESUS TEACH ABOUT OUR PERSONAL FOUNDATION?

In our scripture texts the wise builder was likened to the person who listens to and acts upon the word of God while the foolish man pays no attention to God or His Word. Let us study the qualities of the wise man first.


1. “Whosoever cometh to Me…” The very first step is to come to the Lord by either going to hear someone talk about Lord or picking up a Bible or piece of Bible literature reading it.

2. “Heareth my sayings…” One may sit in the presence of someone who is talking and never truly hear a single word. This may be because the listener’s mind is on other subjects and the speaker is “tuned out”. Or be-
cause his knowledge of the language is too limited to grasp the meaning of the speaker’s words. But the wise man makes SURE he hears the message because “ignorance of the law is no excuse.”

3. “…doeth them…”

Hearing a command does no good if it is not obeyed. The wise builder acts upon the directions given him by the master architect, knowing that the architect has determined the requirements and limitations of the building and knows the strengths and weaknesses of the materials to be used. We know that Jesus is the Master Architect, so, if we are wise, we act upon His word and the word of His foremen, the Apostles.

B) Can one hear and not do?

1. “Ye call me Lord, Lord…” Many people give “lip service” to the Lord, making a big thing of calling Jesus their Lord; they celebrate His birth, His death, His resurrection (usually on the wrong days); sing songs of praise to him, even have great “healing crusades” in His name. But...

2. “Ye... do not the things which I say.” We will study what His commandments are in later lessons. This, is knowing to do and not doing it. “Therefore, to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” (James 4:17).


1. “Like a man which built an house…” Each and every one of us is building into our lives the character which is the house in which we live. But all are not wise builders. What is the first thing that distinguishes the wise from the foolish builder?

2. He “…digged deep…” The wise man dug through the shifting sand and the slippery, miry clay and laid his foundation upon a rock. Our Rock is Jesus Christ, the Anointed One the Messiah. We must dig through all the attitudes of self-indulgence, the doubts and fears natural to all mankind and false doctrines of men, all of which are shifting sands or treacherous clay. By faith, we dig down to our Great Rock, the unshakable foundation CHRIST Jesus.

3. “…laid the foundation upon a rock…”

When we lay our foundation upon Jesus, His commandments, His teachings and His promises, we are on the sure foundation. “Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 3:11).

D) The necessity of building on the Rock.

1. “…the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house,” (Luke 6:48b). Life is full of problems and like the old saying, “When it rains, it pours,” problems seem to come all at once. Watch. If you lose your job, it seems like immediately there is a serious illness or a death in the family, or a wreck, or disastrous fire, or the finance company repossesses your car or furniture. If you are not secure “on the rock,” the flood of problems may overflow you and “wash you away.” Even “righteous Job” lost his oxen and donkeys and the servants that kept them, his sheep and the servants that kept them, his camels and the servants that kept them, and finally, his children all apparently in less than one hour. (See Job 1:13-22) Only his unshakable faith in God kept him going. In his day, the Holy Spirit was not yet given as the Comforter, but today we can “…know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28).


1. The storm “could not shake it…” Why could the storm not shake it? “…it was founded upon a rock.” Of course there will be storms in your Christian life, but if you are hearing and doing the Word of God, you are founded upon the rock and the storm
cannot shake you.

F) What happens to the house without foundation?

1. “...the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately, it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.” (Luke 6:49). We have all seen pictures of places hit by flash floods. Did you notice that most of the damaged houses were built on the earth and when the flood waters washed the soil away, the houses crumbled and fell? But here and there a house withstood the storm. The ones that stood had a foundation that could not be washed away. It does not matter that it is cheaper to build on the soil and the builder thinks he can not afford the extra expense of the better foundation. Nor does it matter if the builder doesn’t know any better. What counts is whether or not the foundation is on a sure rock or not. The flood is not interested in excuses nor even reasons. The waters rush impartially down the valley and sweep away everything alike - except that which is solidly built upon a rock. This is an indisputable fact of life. It is equally true in the spiritual sense. We dare not build our spiritual houses on “hope-so” or “it’s good enough” salvation. We MUST build on the sure foundation of Jesus Christ and the doctrines His first Apostles taught.


1. “He that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth...” You are already a “hearer” of the Word. (See Romans 2:13; James 1:22,23.) The result of our failure to build on a firm foundation is the same regardless of the reason; whether we simply did not understand the message, deliberately disobeyed or because a trusted religious leader told us that it made no difference so long as we “believed”.

H) What did the Apostles teach about our personal foundation?

1. The Christian’s foundation is described in Hebrews 6:1 and 2: “Therefore laying aside the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection [a better translation says, “let us grow into maturity;”]: not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands...” This is NOT saying that we do not need the foundation, but that once it is laid and in place, we go on to build upon that foundation, as can be seen from the context of these verses. The entire 5th chapter explains the necessity of our growing into maturity, outgrowing milk and learning to eat real meat. The foundation described consisted of:

1. “…repentance from dead works,”
2. “…faith toward God…”
3. “…the doctrine of baptisms…”
4. “…laying on of hands…”
5. “…resurrection of the dead…”
6. “…eternal Judgment.”

It is impossible for us to “go on unto perfection...” unless we first lay our foundation right. This is why so many church-goers do not grow and mature into soldiers of the cross. Their foundation was never properly laid. After the foundation is laid, then we must “…go on.”

NOTES: