

Christian Life Series IX: OUR LIFE’S FOUNDATION

Every eternally successful life is built upon the foundation of God’s word.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Whether or not we realize it, we are all builders.
- ❖ Consciously or unconsciously, we are all in the business of building human lives – whether it is our own lives, the lives of our children or the lives of others who look to us for direction.
- ❖ Therefore, the key questions we must ask ourselves are: “How are we building?” and “What foundation are we building on?”
- ❖ Rick Warren, pastor and author of the well-known *The Purpose Driven Life*, identified foundations many people chose to build their lives upon:
 - Popular culture. Some people simply do what’s popular, what “everybody else” is doing – yet what’s popular today won’t be popular tomorrow. Basing a life on popular culture is like building a house on a constantly moving foundation. It doesn’t work!
 - Tradition. Other people build their lives on what has always been done or how their parents did it. That does make some sense. Tradition becomes tradition because it works. But tradition eventually wears out, becomes obsolete and invalid. In Mark 7:8, Jesus tells the Pharisees never to put tradition before truth. This is a good reminder for all of us.
 - Reason. God gave us the ability to reason and we certainly need to use it. But our reasoning is not infallible. Proverbs 16:25 says, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” Even the smartest among us will falter at times. Only God’s reasoning ability can be trusted all the time.
 - Emotions. Some build their lives on feelings. If it feels “right”, they do it. But feelings lie all the time! And we lie to ourselves more than anyone else. If we live by feelings, we’ll spend our lives being manipulated by our moods.
- ❖ In the parable Jesus gives in Matthew 7, He lets us know we have the choice of two materials on which to build our houses – sand or rock. Then He tells us that the rock represents “these sayings of Mine” (v. 24). In other words, the word of God is the solid foundation we must have for our lives.

KEY SCRIPTURES
 Matthew 7:24-27, 24:35; Proverbs 16:25;
 Psalm 119:89; 1 Corinthians 3:11

- ❖ Without a doubt, storms will arise in our lives. And as many have unfortunately discovered, any foundation other than the word of God will eventually shift, crack and cause serious damage to our house. But a house built on the rock will stand!
- ❖ Absolutely nothing supersedes the word of God as the foundation upon which our lives must be built. Describing the Word, David said: “Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89). Jesus followed up by saying, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Matt. 24:35); and “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” (Matt. 7:24).
- ❖ The apostle Paul takes us even further in our understanding of what (or more precisely *who*) this “rock” foundation is: “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11).
- ❖ Our “go-to” question must be: “What does the word of God have to say about...” (Fill in the blank with any area of life.)
- ❖ We must listen, respond and build our lives on the basis of God’s word.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Scripturally, what is a spiritual “building”?
2. Identify some “storms, rains, floods” of life that can attack our spiritual buildings.
3. Is it possible for a follower of Jesus to have/be a “building” that falls or is unstable in a storm? Explain.
4. Is it possible for anything to damage or shift our spiritual *foundation*? Explain.
5. Fill in the blank of the “go-to” question above. Share scriptural principles about each area of life the group identifies. These are the “rocks” we must build upon.







Prayer Time
 Lord, my desire and determination is to build my life on Your word and the knowledge of who and what You are. In Jesus’ name. amen.

Start-up: What area(s) of your dwelling seem to require the most frequent repair? Can the problem(s) be permanently fixed? If so, how?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

-  (Reminds me/Confirms)
-  (New idea)
-  (Think about)
-  (Do this)
-  (Speaks to my heart)
-  (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline