

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Over the past few years I have come to realize how God has led me to study foundations. Before I entered mission work, God grounded me in the first three chapters of Genesis and its key foundational truths. God later rooted me in his rich inheritance and commitment to me and in His 4 dimensions of love as I meditated on the book of Ephesians. Then I spent time in study in the first chapters of Acts, which revealed the foundation beliefs and lifestyles of early church. As God led me into more writing, I could not get Matthew 3 out of my mind. Over a period of several years, God showed me the key foundational truths that God wanted his disciples to know.

Builders know the importance of good foundations, especially in earthquake zones or flooding areas. I remember one man whose father was a builder in California, He said that other builders there cut corners in their construction of houses, which suffered damage during earthquakes. However, his dad's houses survived earthquakes because he was willing to spend the time and money to build a firm foundation.

In a similar way, spiritual foundations are extremely important. God prophesied that in the days before the return of Jesus to earth, everything that can be shaken will be shaken and only that which is built on a firm foundation will stand. - Luke 21:26, Hebrews 12:25-29, Haggai 2:6,21. Jesus tells disciples how to build a good foundation by practicing his teachings. - Matthew 7:24-27.

'Why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not do what I say?' - Luke 6:46

He then goes on to speak about how a wise builder **digs down deep** until he finds solid rock to build upon. **Many who call themselves Christians have a shallow and superficial faith which will not be able to sustain them as the adverse winds of trouble and persecution come to test them.** Jesus said that the **love** of most would **grow cold** in the latter times due to the increase of wickedness (In the future we will share more about this global cooling based on Matt.24:12). Paul prayed that the church would be **rooted and grounded in the love of God** (Ephesians 3:16-19). One of Satan's main goals is to stir up strife and division not only in the church but in all areas of society.

Jesus came under great attack while he walked this earth. His name and character are still attacked by those with an antichrist spirit who will not recognize him for who He is and who even seek to forbid the use of his name in public prayers. The apostle Paul referred to Jesus as the foundation of our faith - 1 Corinthians 3:11 and preached that to become a Christian is this:

*That if you confess with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord**, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved - Romans 10:9*

Paul wrote these words to Christians in Rome, which was the headquarters of the mighty Roman Empire where Caesar resided. Caesar expected all citizens under his rule to confess that 'Caesar is Lord'. Many Christians in that day became martyrs for

Jesus because they refused to offer incense to Caesar nor confess him as Lord. Near the end of his life, the apostle Paul must have noticed that some professing Christians had not dug down deep enough in faith, for they had not fully submitted to Jesus as Lord but lived in the ways of the sinful world. **God's command for physical marriage and spiritual marriage to Christ is the same: Leave and Cleave.** Leave behind anything or anyone who adversely effects your pure devotion to the new relationship. Two are meant to join together in love and purpose.

*God's **solid foundation** stands firm, sealed with this inscription:
'The Lord knows those are who His,' and 'Everyone who confesses
the Name of the Lord **must turn away** from wickedness.'
2 Timothy 2:19 NIV*

Paul refers to our relationship with Jesus as being a pledge in marriage which includes us being a pure virgin with a sincere devotion to him alone. - 2 Corinthians 11:2-3

John, the apostle of love, wrote a wonderful letter to Christians. . In it he gives many references to what it means to live as a believer in Jesus. One must walk in the light and live in love, not in darkness or hate. One must not love anything in this world system but live in purity, morality, obey God's commands and not live in lawlessness. The last words in his letter reveal what he sees as a threat to the believer's foundational relationship with Christ.

*Dear children, **keep yourselves from idols.** - 1 John 5:21*

Adrian Rogers describes three tests that John speaks of:

The Lordship Test *'We know we have come to know Him if we **obey his commands.**'
1 John 2:3. Before Christ, we run to sin. In Christ, we run from sin.*

The Fellowship Test *'We know we have passed from death to life, because
we **love our brothers.**' - 1 John 3:14*

The Relationship Test *'He who **has the Son has life**; he who does not have
the Son does not have life.'* - 1 John 5:12

Note: We are not saved by keeping God's commands,
but they are the natural fruit of one who knows the Lord.

There was a prophet to the church in the 20th century. He wrote the following, which remains relevant to our generation.

**'To escape the error of salvation by works we have fallen into the
opposite error of salvation without obedience. - A.W. Tozer**

Before a tavern or pub closes, they sometimes give a 'last call' to get drinks at the bar. About 20 years ago I began a sermon with a loud shout out, LAST CALL!

It is the final message to earth from God before judgment comes. It is given by three angels. Here is part of their message

*Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth - to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, **Fear God and give him glory. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.** -Revelation 14:6-7*

In another message, we will travel back to the book of Genesis where we will find key foundation truths and also see how the devil has sought to attack each one of them.

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