

Building Foundations

Have you ever considered building your own house? Have you daydreamed or planned what your home would be like? And do you know what the most important part of your new home would be? It is the foundation! Why is the foundation so important? Because it has to support the weight and structure of your house. Time and weather and other conditions must not be able to affect your foundation if you want your house to continue to stand over the years.

I've had to learn about foundations in the last few years of my life due to building our ranch here in Arkansas, and our recent project of building a conference center.

Five years ago I (Daniel) went to a log home school in Tennessee to learn about building log homes. Foundations were discussed continually. The foundation is the most important part in building a home.

Jesus taught us about foundations in one of His parables. He often used examples or metaphors from every day life in order to communicate a spiritual point.

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on a rock: 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. 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: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

Matthew 7:24-27

The house you are building is your life. What are you building your life on? Are you building it on the Rock of Jesus Christ and His teachings, or on something else?

What sorts of foundations do most people, including Christians, build their lives on? Let's look at some of these foundations.

School, fame, success, career, popularity, fun, relationships, materialism, sports and even sex!

What commitments and priorities would or do you see in the lives of people who build on these foundations? Think about it. What storms come into their lives? *Remember, we all have storms.* What are some of these storms? Bad investments - how many of you lost money this year in your 401K or other investments? Layoffs - many have lost their jobs since 9-11 and have not been able to find another one. Breakups in relationships and even divorce. Nothing is more destructive in a person's life than a divorce. The Charisma Magazine in this last year has been full of accounts of divorces within Christian leadership. What about aids or herpes? These diseases are rampant and people who build their lives on sex are very likely to get one or both of these.

Jesus said that these storms are the real test of our life's foundation. Storms like these will completely destroy lives if they are not built on the Rock of Jesus Christ.

I've spent several years restoring a 1957 Chevy. It has taken time, energy and money. If it was stolen, destroyed or wrecked, it would hurt. BUT all would not be lost because it's not my Rock.

When the stock market crashed in 1929, many people lost their entire fortunes in one day! They were left with absolutely nothing! Since this was all that most of them lived for, many went to the roof tops and jumped to their deaths. Their foundation was wealth which is nothing but the sand Jesus talked about.

Romeo and Juliet are an example of a different kind. When Romeo thought that Juliet was dead, he didn't want to live any longer, so he killed himself. *His foundation was built on one person.* When he thought that person was gone, he could no longer live.

Far too many people build their lives around sex, because they make the mistake of thinking sex is love. They go from one partner to another, one spouse to another, and are never satisfied. As a result their life is ruined, their children's lives are ruined, and they often lose their life altogether because of contracting Aids. The foundation of sex will always come crashing down. It will never endure for any period of time.

Jesus teaches us that building our lives on these types of foundations is foolish. Because they cannot weather the storms, and we KNOW Christ is right. So then why do so many of His children choose to build on such weak foundations? Why do they deceive themselves by saying "such things will never happen to me?" The bible teaches us that we live with so much false security:

Please read Ecclesiastes chapters 1 and 2. We will quote just part of it here:

"Vanity of vanities,' says the Preacher;

Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.'

What profit has a man from all his labor

In which he toils under the sun?

One generation passes away,

And another generation comes;

But the earth abides forever." Ecc 1:2-4

"I searched in my heart how to gratify my flesh with wine, while guiding my heart with wisdom, and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the sons of men to do under heaven all the days of their lives . . .

Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them.

I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure,

For my heart rejoiced in all my labor;

And this was my reward from all my labor.

Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done

And on the labor in which I had toiled;

And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind,

There was no profit under the sun.” Ecc. 2:3 & 10-11

However, by the end of his life, King Solomon came to an understanding of just what the Rock was that he should have built his life on. Let's look at what he says:

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:

Fear God and keep His commandments,

For this is man's all.

For God will bring every work into judgment,

Including every secret thing,

Whether good or evil.” Ecc. 12:13-14

Just how wasted was King Solomon's life? He had riches that we cannot even imagine. Yes, he built the temple of God, but the rest of his life was pretty much a waste. Interestingly, God never made much of a comment about Solomon - nothing like He did about his father David. God said:

“And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’ From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior - Jesus --.” Acts 13:22-23

David built his life on the Rock from early childhood. In spite of his mistakes and sins, his heart was always for God. And as a result, God testified to David in glowing terms. Solomon had everything the world could give, but David had God!

A sad example is the man Howard Hughes. He was a billionaire and was considered to be one of the richest men in the world. He became a recluse right up to the time of his death. In one of the last interviews with him this question was asked. “How much money do you need to make you happy?” His answer was, “Just a little more!” When he died, what became of his money? He took as much as any of us will take, as much as any homeless person will take - nothing! In the end, his life was nothing because he didn't have God.

“For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever,

Since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come.

And how does a wise man die?

As the fool!” Ecc. 2:16

The rich man dies the same as the poor man, the wise man the same as the fool. Everyone dies the same. What makes the difference is how they lived their lives. THIS determines how they will spend their eternity.

There is one storm that we will all have to face someday - our death. This storm (our death) will be the true test of our life's foundation.

“And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” Luke 12:15-21

Look at verse 15 again: “For one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?” Luke 9:25

I saw a bumper sticker the other day that read:

“The one who dies with the most toys wins.” What a lie! The one who dies with Christ wins. The storm of death is coming! So what foundation can we build on to weather this storm? What insurance can we have?

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19-21

Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” John 10:10b

Our personal relationship with God is our treasure in heaven. It is our only foundation that will weather the storm of death. Jesus is the Rock. He has come to give us a full and rewarding life both here on earth and throughout all eternity.

Every human being senses his need for God, whether he will admit it or not. Maybe this is why so many people include some kind of religion in their lives. To help make them feel more comfortable about facing death. But does having *religion* guarantee a solid foundation?

“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. 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?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” Matthew 7:21-23

Many people have a *form of religion*, but they are not doing the will of God - they are not living according to His teachings.

There are two major areas where Christians *think* they have built their lives on the Rock, but they really have not, and end up falling and failing. Let's look at these.

The first is *false repentance*. Unfortunately, very little is taught about repentance in our churches today. True repentance is godly sorrow over our sins, and coming into agreement with God about our sins. True repentance starts building our life on *the* firm foundation. It produces the following:

“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”

2 Corinthians 7:10-11

The person who truly repents for his sins, and has godly sorrow over them, exhibits these

characteristics listed in this scripture. The sin that was once so desirable and fascinating to us now is odious and detestable! We no longer desire to do the sins. However, the person who is not truly repentant with a godly sorrow, may stop the sins, but only because he looks at them and sees that they will ruin him, or becomes afraid that God will punish him for them. *HOWEVER, this person will never agree with God on the just punishment for his sins.* God feels that our sins deserve the punishment of an eternity in hell. The person who does not truly repent, does not feel that his sins are all that bad. In his heart of hearts he does not believe he deserves to spend eternity in hell, no matter what God says. Also, this person who does not truly repent, still finds his sins desirable and attractive. In fact, even though he may see his sins as hurtful and abominable in God's eyes, in his heart he still loves them, desires them, and wants to cling to them. He may abstain from the sins not because he abhors them, but from the dread of the consequences of the sins. Charles Finney has this to say about false repentance:

“Ordinarily, the change produced by false repentance is temporary even in those things that are reformed. The individual is continually relapsing into old sins. The disposition to sin is not gone - only checked and restrained by fear. As soon as he has a hope, is attending church, and gets bolstered up so that his fears are relieved, you will see him gradually returning to his old sins.”

(*Living for God*, by Charles Finney, p. 24)

So many Christians write or call us with a complaint. They say something like, “Living the Christian life is so difficult!” These are the people who have never experienced true repentance. Their foundation is not on the Rock.

If your repentance is genuine, then you will have a conscious change of your views and feelings in regard to sin. You will no longer desire the things you once did prior to your repentance. You can truly say, “. . . old things have passed away . . . all things have become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17

Have you ever truly repented for your sins with godly sorrow? Then you need to get on your face and fast and pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show you your sins in the exact way that God sees them! If you have never done so, please carefully and thoroughly cleanse your life as written in chapter 12 of *Becoming A Vessel of Honor*. This will start you on a firm foundation.

The second common false foundation, is written about by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians. The Corinthians had fallen into this error. They thought they were on a firm foundation, but they were not.

“You are already full! You are already rich! You have reigned as kings without us - and indeed I could wish you did reign, that we also might reign with you! For I think God has displayed us, the apostles, last as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored!” 1 Cor. 4:8-10

In their pride, the Corinthians were arrogantly presuming the full right *in this life* to things promised *in part at the present*, but only fully realized in the coming of Christ’s reign physically here on earth. In doing this, they felt they were kings now, in the present, and as such felt they should have all the things kings have - wealth, prestige, power, health, fancy homes & cars, etc. They were deceived into drawing their values from the false standards and teachings of the spirit of the world, forgetting that this world’s values stand judged under the cross of Christ!

This is exactly what so many false prophets and churches are doing today. They reject any thought of hardship or persecution, believing instead that we can already receive the full rewards of the future promised to us *after Christ’s return*. *They are determined to skip the hardships and suffering God has ordained for His people in this age to purify us and grow our faith!* They are trying to be kings *now* and skip the training period. They heap to themselves wealth and honor and fall into the sin of pride! This is the root error in the teaching of so many TV evangelists and pastors of mega churches.

That’s why they teach that everyone will be healed and everyone will be prosperous. Totally overlooking the fact that the Apostle Paul and all the others suffered intensely in their bodies, and even Timothy suffered from a chronic stomach ailment, which apparently was not healed in spite of Paul’s prayers!

Christians who believe this line of teaching, because they have not been trained by hardship, become caught up in the things of this world and become carnal just as the Corinthians. They become unable to receive the meat of the Word and become shallow in their relationship with God. Fighting one another for fame and fortune, marked by jealousy, and greed, and falling prey to false prophecies and doctrines of demons. They become marked by competition. Their foundation is not in Christ and Him crucified, but in riches, wealth and position in men’s eyes. *What will they do when it all comes tumbling down?* I am afraid we will see in the very near future, as God moves in judgment on this nation.

If this is your foundation, then you will become fertile ground for the false prophets always prophesying peace and prosperity!

What do you think would characterize the lives of people who *are* building on a solid foundation and a personal relationship with God?

Love of God above all else - TV, sports, wealth, position, etc.

God would be in their everyday lives, not just on the weekend when they go to church.

They would have a deep commitment to study and practice God’s Word.

Jesus is not saying that we cannot use money or have houses or make friends and relationships. He is saying that they cannot be our foundations.

Jesus is also not saying that we won't have storms in our lives. In fact, He teaches that we will have storms. He is saying that in order to survive all of life's storms, He must be our life's foundation.

As you examine your own life, what foundation are you building on? *Are you prepared for the storm that's coming?*

It's About Time!

After more than 20 years of taking all kinds of flack and criticism for saying that Christians can have demons, someone else is finally saying it, and saying it big!

In *Charisma Magazine*, March 2003, an extensive article by John Eckhardt talks about the fact that Christians CAN have demons, and DO need deliverance. I take my hat off to both Pastor Eckhardt and *Chrisma*, for being willing to publish such an article! He writes:

“There was a time when we taught in our church that Christians could not have demons. I preached long sermons stating that Christians could be oppressed, regressed, digressed, obsessed and suppressed, but never possessed. We believed that a demon could be *outside* a Christian oppressing him but that is could not be *inside* him. . . The problem was, our experience did not match our theology. When we ministered deliverance, we frequently prayed for people we knew were born-again, Spirit-filled believers - and they manifested demons! We had to face the fact that wither our experience was wrong or our doctrine was wrong. We couldn't question our experience because we knew what we were seeing. So we began to question our theology. In our search for truth, we realized that in the Bible, Jesus tells us to cast devils *out*, not to cast devils *off*. Obviously, for something to come *out*, it must be *in*.” (*Charisma*, 3-03, p. 66)

He concludes:

“Now whenever a person gets saved, we automatically assume he needs some level of deliverance, and we lead him through the process. We don't question *if* the new believer has a demon, only *how many* he has. . . We must accept the reality that we have been commissioned to minister to God's covenant people, and part of our responsibility is to provide them with their covenant right of deliverance. If we deprive them of it based on some erroneous theological doctrine, then we are denying them what is rightfully theirs, and we cannot call ourselves able ministers of the New Covenant. Let's do as Jesus did, and serve the children's bread to those who need it!” (*Ibid.*, p. 68)

Hallelujah! Somebody else is saying it, and in a forum read by thousands and thousands of Christians! Praise God! Pray for this man and his church, they are going to catch a lot of flack from Satan over this article.

A Dividing Kingdom

Jesus said:

“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.” Matthew 12:25

Somehow, Daniel and I suddenly found ourselves on the mailing lists of some folks in hard core Satanism. We have started to receive their newsletters on our E-mail. This month we received a couple of very interesting ones that show that Satan’s kingdom is involved in a pretty massive internal struggle. Praise God!

Since the death of Anton LaVey several years ago, there has been a struggle as to who would assume the top leadership position amongst the various Satanic groups. You may remember that Anton LaVey founded the First Church of Satan in San Francisco, CA. He also published the *Satanic Bible*. We have received several E-mails from someone who calls himself the Grand Magister Blackwood the Satanic Black Pope. One of his newsletters has this to say:

“Over the past three and one half years I have watched Satanism unwind and watched a mass exodus of great minds vacate the religion for Atheism or even Paganism. Many true Satanists have little care for organizational values or for being a part of any movement. This is due to an influence installed by my predecessor that modern Satanists are “elitists” and require no form of organized religion in order to practice Satanism.”

This person goes on to describe the disintegration of a number of the best known satanic organizations such as the Temple of Set. Apparently he has elected himself the new “black pope” and intends to put the Satanists back “on track” and lead them back into the “old ways.” He also announced his intention

to publish a book called the *New World Satanic Bible*.

We bring this information to you so that you can pray. Pray that God will continue to sew discord and confusion within Satan’s kingdom!

We need a decrease in the strength of Satan’s kingdom so that we can go forward with God’s kingdom! This is good news. Praise God for it, and continue to pray that Satan’s kingdom will be divided and be “brought to desolation.”

Testimonies

“I and my husband pastor a church in New Orleans. We have been going through a very hard time. The other night my husband picked up your newsletter and read the article on “Holding Patterns.” He woke me up at 3am to show me the article. It was the exact answer we needed from the Lord to show us what is going on in our lives. Praise God, and thank you.” B. from LA

“Thanks a lot for the teaching on ‘holding patterns’ last month. It was totally relevant to where I’ve been at the last six weeks or so in Mildura. I reckon God is so gracious in all of the ways He confirms what He’s been teaching us. So many times I wonder if what I’m haring is really Him and then just at the right moment He brings teaching or people across my path that talk about or have experienced exactly the same thing!” L.B. from Australia

We have received so many testimonies from people who have been touched by the message last month on God’s holding patterns. This message was given to Daniel by the Lord as we ourselves are currently in a difficult “holding pattern.” We have been amazed to hear from so many people who are right now experiencing the same sort of thing. It has been an encouragement to us as well as to them. God is good!

“I just wanted to drop you a note letting you know how much I was blessed by your ministry here in Kearny, NJ this month. A lot of things have been cleared up on subjects that I really didn’t have answers for. I now put God’s Armor on every day, I understand and have clear instruction on how I need to cleanse myself and set my two boys and wife free from the demons I gave legality by my sins of the past.” D. from NJ

I spent a week at a wonderful Portuguese church in Kearny, NJ the last week of February. The meetings were delayed a couple of days because of the blizzard, but the Lord moved and blessed mightily. Pastor Antonio Leonardo and the people of the Good Shepherd Church will forever have a place in my heart.

Web Site

We have just been notified that our web site has received first place in the Golden Web Award. This is an international award given by the International Association of Web Masters and Designers and covers entries from 145 countries worldwide. To win this prestigious award, the site must display outstanding design in originality, functionality, appearance, and ease of navigation. The credit goes to Daniel for all his ideas, and to our webmaster, Cotton Rohrscheib who has patiently put all of Daniel’s ideas into our website. We praise God for this new blessing.

Love Offerings

We are a faith-supported ministry. We depend on your love and obedience to God to continue and expand this ministry. Please send your love offering in the enclosed envelope. We ask you to pray about being a partner with us for \$100 or more each month.

We pray that God will grant each one of you His richest blessings as you give to us.

Rev. Daniel Yoder

Rebecca (Brown) Yoder, M.D.

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We are warring to harvest!

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