**Laying the Foundation – Part One**

One of the metaphors the bible uses to help us understand biblical principles and truth is that of a building. Our study begins with the image of laying a foundation on which to build a house. All builders know the necessity of a firm foundation for the building to be solid and remain standing under stress.

Our Christian walk is likened to this idea of having a firm foundation. So in this study will look at

1. What is the foundation?
2. How do we build on the foundation?
3. Two main truths about the foundation.
4. Obstacles to having a firm foundation.
5. Results of having a firm foundation.

Four Passages of Scripture

Jude v 20-21

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, **21**keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (Individual responsibility)

Ephesians 2:21-22

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21**in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22**In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2&version=ESV#fen-ESV-29235e)] the Spirit. (Corporate reality/with others)

I Peter 2:4-5

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, **5**you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (Corporate reality/with others)

Acts 20:32

And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (Individual responsibility)

There is an individual responsibility to lay this foundation in your life; however, this is related to the corporate reality of being part of the body of Christ, i.e. the church.

The Christian life has to have THE RIGHT FOUNDATION

Your foundation will determine three things

1. How high your building/life can go
2. How much weight your building/life can carry
3. How much your building/life can withstand in storms

You can go no further in your faith journey than your foundation permits.

**ONE: WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION?**

I Corinthians 3:10-11

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+corinthians+3&version=ESV#fen-ESV-28404b)] master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. **11**For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

**The foundation is a person, JESUS CHRIST**. He is the only foundation on which to build your life. Everything else is ultimately unstable. Money is not stable. Health is not stable. Jobs are not stable. Reputations are not stable. Denominations are not always stable.

**TWO: HOW DO WE BUILD ON JESUS AS THE FOUNDATION**?

Matt 16:13-18

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” **14**And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” **15**He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” **16**Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” **17**And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. **18**And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+16&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23690b)] I will build my church, and the gates of hell[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+16&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23690c)] shall not prevail against it.

Who do you say that I am?

* The first part of the foundation is the CORNERSTONE.
* If you don’t get that right the foundation is not properly in place.
* The foundation for the Christian life is based on your understanding of WHO JESUS IS.
* Until you can acknowledge Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God you have not proper foundation.

V 18 Greek word Peter is Petros – a stone that one an pickup and move. The word for rock is Petra – which is a large escarpment that is connected to the bedrock of the area. It is permanent.

Some believe that the church has been built on Peter – it is not.

The bedrock on which the church is built is understanding who Jesus is and believing that He is the eternal Son of God.

Peter’s experience involved four parts.

1. Confrontation with a question – individual encounter with Jesus face to face
2. A revelation that came from the Father through the Holy Spirit
3. An acknowledgement of belief or faith
4. A public profession

There is no such thing as a “private” Christian faith. The fact is, if you have had an encounter with Jesus and the revelation that He is the Son of God and believed in you heart He is raised from the dead you WILL BE CHANGED and YOU WILL WANT TO TELL OTHERS!

Sadly, people can join a church, say a prayer, go through a ritual and not be changed.

Peter’s experience is just as available to us today as it was to him.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.

**THREE: TWO MAIN TRUTHS FOR THE FOUNDATION**

Matthew 7:24-27

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25**And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. **26**And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. **27**And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

First Truth **– Hearing His words** – Sermon on the Mount is filled with kingdom truth – Bible

Second Truth – **Obeying** or doing what the WORD says.

James 1:22

 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 2:17-18

So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**18**But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

**FOUR: OBSTACLES TO LAYING THE FOUNDATION**

Luke 6:46-48

“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? **47**Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: **48**he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.

Digging deep to remove barriers and obstacles the getting to the bedrock of Christ

* Prejudices and Preconceptions about church, God, Christians, denominations, etc.
* Unbelief – Jesus was limited in His ministry due to unbelief - Nazareth
* Rebellion- all we like sheep have gone astray, each following our OWN WAY
* Worldliness – put of the old man/nature/sinful flesh
* Traditions that are nonbiblical – Pharisees Matt 15:1-6 – make void God’s word
* Getting rid of all that displeases God – can’t serve two masters

**FIVE: YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE BIBLE**

John 10:35 – Jesus’ understanding of the bible. – The scriptures can not be broken.

Scriptures – that which has been written down for us through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

Word of God – That which proceeds from God and manifest in the Son, inspired by the Spirit

1. In the beginning – John 1:1-4 – the Eternal Word of God
2. The Word made Flesh – incarnation, Jesus, John 1:14
3. The Return of the King – Revelation 19:11-13 – is called THE WORD OF GOD

Your attitude toward Jesus must be the same toward the Word of God (bible); you can not accept Jesus and refuse to accept the Holy Bible.

John 14:23 – If you Love me you will keep my word.

1. True disciples keep the Word of God – like Jesus did
2. In keeping His word we are distinctive from the world and we live differently
3. Keeping God’s word is the supreme test of our love for Father, Son and Holy Spirit
4. Love is the only rightful motivation to obey – fear doesn’t work for long
5. The Father will love us and come and make His abode in us
6. In keeping and obeying God’s word He will become manifest to us.