

# Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 – First Baptist Church Buda  
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study



## HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION? Matthew 7:24-27

<sup>24</sup> "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: <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> "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: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall. <sup>28</sup> And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, <sup>29</sup> for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.—Matthew 7:24-29 (NKJV)

**"Before you can impact the life of another for Christ, you must have been impacted by Christ in a personal and life-changing way"** You can't be a world changer if your world hasn't been changed by Him to start with. Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" actually teaches us how we may impact our world and the lives of those around us for Christ. We have been adding these important keys to impacting your world from Jesus's sermon. Let's review where we've been and add another one in our study as we proceed through Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount." We are now up to **18 important keys to impacting your world...**

### **18 Important Keys to Impacting Your World: (From the Sermon on the Mount)**

1. To impact your world for Christ you must **KNOW CHRIST PERSONALLY** = Matthew 5:1-12, "The Beatitudes"
2. To impact your world for Christ you must **REFLECT CHRIST** to the **WORLD** (others) = Matthew 5:13-16, "Salt and Light"
3. To impact your world for Christ you must **LEARN** to **LIVE** by the **WORD** of God daily = Matthew 5:17-21, "Fulfilling and Living by the Word"
4. To impact your world for Christ you must **RIGHTLY RELATE** to **OTHERS** = Matthew 5:22ff
5. To impact your world for Christ you must **GUARD YOUR HEART** = Matthew 5:27-30

6. To impact your world for Christ you must **BUILD STRONG CHRIST- CENTERED MARRIAGES** and **HOMES** = *Matthew 5:31-32*
7. To impact your world for Christ you must **LIVE A LIFE OF INTEGRITY** = *Matthew 5:33-48*
8. To impact your world for Christ you must **PRACTICE RADICAL GENEROSITY** = *Matthew 6:1-4*
9. To impact your world for Christ you must **BECOME A MAN OR WOMAN OF DEEP AND FERVENT PRAYER** = *Matthew 6:5:15*
10. To impact your world for Christ you must **GIVE YOURSELF AT TIMES TO THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE OF FASTING** = *Matthew 6:16-18*
11. To impact your world for Christ you must **NOT LET THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD HAVE TOO GREAT AN IMPACT ON US** = *Matthew 6:19-24*
12. To impact your world for Christ you must **GIVE TESTIMONY OF A FAITH BASED, WORRY FREE LIFE** = *Matthew 6:25-34*
13. To impact your world for Christ you must **AVOID A JUDGMENTAL SPIRIT TOWARD OTHERS** = *Matthew 7:1-6*
14. To impact your world for Christ you must **ASK, SEEK AND KNOCK FOR THE POWER AND ABILITY THROUGH CHRIST TO IMPACT YOUR WORLD** = *Matthew 7:7-12*
15. To impact your world for Christ you must **CHOOSE THE RIGHT PATH FOR YOUR LIFE** = *Matthew 7:13-14*
16. To impact your world for Christ you must **BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE AND BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHERS AND ERROR** = *Matthew 7:15-20*
17. To impact your world for Christ you must **MAKE SURE OF YOUR PROFESSION AND CALLING AS A BELIEVER** = *Matthew 7:21-23*
- ➡ 18. To impact your world for Christ you must **BUILD YOUR LIFE ON THE RIGHT FOUNDATION** = *Matthew 7:24-27*

Isn't that essentially what we have been saying all along in this study... *"Before you can impact the life of another for Christ, you must have been impacted by Christ in a personal and life-changing way"*... *in other words built your life on the right foundation, ultimately on Christ Jesus as Lord.* How can we effectively impact the lives of others around us in this fallen world? Well, you can't if you, yourself haven't built your life on the right foundation to start with.

We have acknowledged throughout this study that trying to impact our fallen world is overwhelming. The short of it is we can't... at least not on our own, not in the flesh, not without the Lord. As we have seen in previous weeks, what Jesus is calling us to is beyond us, outside of us and our ability. But through Him we can.

Your life must be built on the right foundation itself, if it is to have any hope of not only holding up against the storms of this life yourself, but also being able to help other weather the storms and trials and difficulties that are to come.

### **HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION, THE SONG – Hymn #338, "How Firm A Foundation"**

The hymn "How Firm a Foundation" has been popular among Christians for generations and is a personal favorite to many. While its origin is a bit of a mystery, the hymn itself has been prominent for generations.

The song was first published in 1787 in a hymnbook edited by John Rippon titled *A Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors*. Its beautiful lyrics exalting the Word of God has made it one of America's best-loved hymns. Surprisingly, the name of the author behind this classic hymn is a mystery. In the hymnbook, it was attributed only to "K—." This is thought by many to be a reference to Robert Keene, who was a friend of John Rippon's and was the leader of music at the Carter Lane Baptist Church in London when Rippon was the pastor. Even so, the true identity of the author remains a mystery.

Despite the anonymity of its origins, for over 230 years *How Firm a Foundation* has brought comfort and encouragement to countless believers. It was sung at the death bed of President Andrew Jackson and at the funerals of Robert E. Lee and Theodore Roosevelt.

An interesting account of these lyrics bringing comfort – and unity – in times of uncertainty and trial is found in a story from the Spanish-American war. This conflict came about 30 years after the end of the US Civil War, and tensions between the North and the South were still high. On Christmas Eve, 1898, it was sung by an entire corps of the United States Army encamped near Havana, Cuba. Lieutenant-Colonel Curtis Guild, Jr. related the inspiring story to *The Sunday-School Times* back in 1901. Guild wrote: "On Christmas eve of 1898 I sat before my tent in the balmy tropical night [near Havana] chatting with a fellow-officer of Christmas and home. Suddenly from the camp of the Forty-ninth Iowa rang a sentinel's call, 'Number ten; twelve o'clock, and all's well!'" It was Christmas morning. Scarcely had the cry of the sentinel died away, when from the bandsmen's tents of that same regiment there rose the music of an old, familiar hymn, and one clear baritone voice led the chorus that quickly ran along those moonlit fields: '*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord!*' Another voice joined in, and another, and another, and in a moment the whole regiment was singing, and then the Sixth Missouri joined in, with the Fourth Virginia, and all the rest, till there, on the long ridges above the great city whence Spanish tyranny once went forth to enslave the New World, a whole American army corps was singing – *Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed; For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand, Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.* The Northern soldier knew the hymn as one he had learned beside his mother's knee. To the Southern soldier it was that and something more; it was the favorite hymn of General Robert E. Lee, and was sung at that great commander's funeral. Protestant and Catholic, North and South were singing together on Christmas day in the morning – now that's an American army!"

So many have found comfort and encouragement from the words of this great old hymn that dates all the way back to the late 1700's

**Below are the full lyrics to this wonderful hymn: (look at it here in your hymn book #338)**

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

- Where does the hymn writer say our foundation must be laid? **His excellent Word**
- What does he assure us concerning this foundation? **That He has said there all that we need to know to find the help we need in Jesus**

*In every condition, in sickness, in health, in poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth, at home and abroad, on the land, on the sea, as days may demand, shall thy strength ever be.*

- This verse doesn't appear in our hymn books anymore, but what does the hymn writer say is the promise he finds and leans on as a foundation in God's Word? **No matter what we face (sickness, health, poverty, wealth, home, abroad, land sea, demands of life) God will always give us the strength we need**

Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid. I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

- What promise do you find here for "fear" or when we face fears in this life? **I think the reality that we face fears in this life and that those fears are real and understood, but He will help us stand and hold us up in the face of those fear by His own divine power and strength**
- Why do you think the hymn writer said "will still give you aid"? **Some may think that a Christian ought not to fear and doubt and that somehow we have abandoned or denied, not walked in faith and let Him down if we are filled with fear and doubt. But here the hymn writer is reminding us that even when we are filled with fear and doubt He will "still" be there for us. I love that**

*When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow; for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*

- What do you think this verse, that no longer appears in our hymn books, is talking about? **I think it is talking about grief and loss... the deepest storms and trials and heartache of all comes through the death or loss of a loved one. Even then when we have the right foundation, we will find all that we need to endure and be comforted through it.**

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply. The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

- What here does the hymn writer identify as the purpose behind our trials and struggles (storms) in this life, and how does that relate to having a firm foundation? **There is the promise that He will enter the flames with us and carry us through those trials, pain and suffering; and that He is refining and doing a marvelous work in us through those times if we let Him. We can only see and find this if our life is founded on Him... the solid rock (foundation)**

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose I will not, I will not desert to his foes; that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake!

- This verse carries with it a great promise for those who "endeavor" to build their live on the solid foundation of Him and His Word, what is that great promise? **He will never for sake or desert that one to his foes**
- What does this promise mean to you personally (in your words), and how does it help you in this life?

*\*italics no in hymn book*

## READ: Matthew 7:24-27

### ILLUSTRATION – Foundation for the World’s Tallest Building – Burj Khalifa

The world’s tallest building is the “Burj Khalifa” opened in Dubai on January 4, 2010. At a staggering 2,717 feet tall...more than half a mile high - it easily overshadows the previous tallest building (Taipei in Taiwan is but 1,671 feet tall) and the Burj Khalifa stands double the height of the renowned Empire State Building.

The Burj Khalifa accommodates 12,000 people, and it cost a staggering \$1.5 billion to build, captured several other world records. Those include:

- \*It is the tallest man-made structure in history: (previously Warsaw radio mast – 2,121 ft);
- \*It set the world record for the building with most floors: 160 (previously Willis Tower – 108);
- \*the Burj Khalifa has the highest elevator and world’s fastest elevators... traveling at 40 mph;
- \*It is the first world’s tallest structure to include residential space;
- \*It has the highest outdoor observation deck (on the 124<sup>th</sup> floor);
- \*It also boasts the world’s highest mosque (located on the 158th floor);
- \*And the world’s highest swimming pool (76th floor);

While most attention focuses on its height, perhaps more important is what lies buried beneath the building. Without a solid foundation, the world’s tallest building at more than half a mile high would become the world’s longest pile of rubble. **Extending 164 feet deep under the Burj Khalifa lies 58,900 cubic yards of concrete weighing over 120,000 tons. It took a year just to build the foundation.**

Someone once said, “It doesn’t matter how high a building soars, what matters is what is below the surface.”

- **What do you think this quote means, and how might it apply to our lives as believers?**
- **What might it be saying about the foundation on which we build our lives?**

### APPLICATION –

1. Of course we all know that a solid foundation is important to the strength and longevity of a building’s life.
2. It is also crucial to the life and health of a church and our life in Christ.
3. This evening we are going to talk about our foundation.
4. We are going to take a look at it from God’s perspective.
5. When life gets shaky, and the winds begin to blow.
  - a. When things in our world begin to feel like they are falling apart?
  - b. When everything around us is going through change?
  - c. When trials, and hardships, and discouragements, and disappointments, and scary things happen?
  - d. The foundation, what you have founded your faith on, what you are standing on becomes very important.
6. How firm is your foundation?

7. Now just based on our passage (Matthew 7:24-29) why is it so important to pay attention to the foundation on which we build our lives? Jesus tells us... we know the ultimate reason He gives is that rains, storms and winds come and will blow against our life. It will only stand if it has the right foundation, but let's translate this practically into our lives for a minute.

#### **5 Reasons We Need the Right Foundation Today:**

- (1) **We need the right foundation because of trials and hardships that come in this life -**
- (2) **We need the right foundation because false teachers and false religions abound -**
- (3) **We need the right foundation because of the attacks of the world, the flesh and the devil – this can include cultural sway, our own flesh weakness, and the spiritual battles that rage against us every day that sometimes go unnoticed.**
- (4) **We need the right foundation because our families and churches, and the lives of those around us are at stake -**
- (5) **We need the right foundation because it affects our eternal destiny -**

#### **APPLICATION – Some things we sometimes try to build our lives on**

The foundation of a house tells you how big the house can get. You can't put a big house on a small or faulty foundation. It'll collapse every time.

The same is true for our lives. You can't become what God wants you to be on a faulty foundation. We're given a lot of different options for what will be the foundation of our lives:

#### **Some Things We May Sometimes Try to Build Our Lives On:**

- **Popular culture.** Some people think they'll simply do what every other person is doing. If it's popular, that's what they do, too. Yet what's popular today won't be popular tomorrow. Basing your 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 a little sense. Tradition becomes tradition because it works. But no tradition lasts forever. It eventually wears out, becomes obsolete, and is invalid. In Mark 7:8 Jesus tells the Pharisees never to put tradition before truth. It's a good reminder for all of us.
- **Reason.** God gave us the ability to reason; we need to use it. But our reason isn't infallible. Proverbs 16:25 says, "*There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death*" (NIV). The smartest among us will falter at times; it's to be expected. Only God can be trusted all the time.
- **Emotions.** Some build their lives on a feeling. If it feels right, they do it. But feelings lie — they lie all the time! You lie to yourself more than anyone else. If you live by your feelings, you'll spend your life manipulated by your moods.

#### **EXPLANATION –**

1. Scripture often compares our lives to a building, as-a-matter-of-fact, Jesus himself closed out his "Sermon On the Mount" with some wise words on building... paying particular attention to the foundation on which we build our lives.
2. If you have your copy of Scripture with you this morning, I'd like for you to open with me to the **Gospel of Matthew**... the very first book of the New Testament.
  - b. Matthew, chapter 7, and we are going to be looking at verses 24-29 this morning.
  - c. **Matthew 7:24-29**



- d. Now, you will recognize that we were actually here, in the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew, a couple of weeks ago in our “Throne Room” series. We looked at verses 21-23 and we heard Jesus say in verse 21, <sup>21</sup>“*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.*”
  - e. We called this the “invitation” to Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. I had to come back to this passage, because when we touched on a couple of weeks ago, I just couldn’t leave it without giving a look at Jesus final words in His sermon... a parable that He tells to close our His sermon. It is the “Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders.” (Matthew 7:24-29).
3. Again, this parable, told by Jesus, has been called “The Parable of The Wise and Foolish Builders” and is also recorded in Luke’s Gospel.
  4. These are Jesus’ closing remarks or His conclusion to His “Sermon on the Mount,” and interestingly he closes with a story, an illustration... a probing and through provoking parable.
  5. It’s like he left them with a “cliff hanger”... a choice if you will.
  6. Choose which foundation you will lay your life on... that you will build your life on, and it is as if He is saying “choose carefully” because the choice of your foundation has grave consequences.
  7. I think it is almost as if Jesus is challenging his hearers and us today to check out the foundation of our lives.

#### APPLICATION –

1. I’ve shared with you before... even as recently as a couple of weeks ago... that various surveys and polls in recent years have estimated that as many as 85% of U.S. citizens identify themselves as born-again Christians.
2. But now we know, that on the basis on the Bible’s description of “true believers” and the reality that few really come on God’s terms, those are pretty high percentages and the likelihood of them being accurate is, well shaky to say the least. .
3. Jesus, Himself, reminded us just a few verses earlier in Matthew 7:14 says, *“But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”*
4. I share with you what Dr. John McArthur says a couple of week ago. He says, *“By scriptural standards, it is hard to believe that even half of the church members in the United States are true believers.”*
5. That says to me that there are a lot of people in our church today who have built on a pretty shaky foundation and perhaps that’s why when... When things in their world begins to feel like they are falling apart... When every thing around them is going through change... When trials, and hardships, and discouragements, and disappointments, and scary things happen... They can’t make it... they fall apart to the point of “hopelessness,” “total despair,” “they can’t make it.” Unstable foundation!
6. Listen, we must build on the solid foundation God wants to lay for us. It is the only hope we have.
7. Now I want to share with you a message this morning that I have titled *“Firm Foundation,”* with a question for a sub-title, *“How Firm is Your Foundation?”* In other words, how firm, strong, stable is the foundation upon which you have built your life? It’s a good question, and one that seem be on Jesus’ heart and mind as he looks out at all of those gathered that day on the side of that mount to hear him.

8. I think His Word probes and asks the same question of us today, “How firm is your foundation?”
9. And I want share with you this morning from “The Parable of Wise and Foolish Builders” some truths about the foundation that God has laid for you to build your life and your faith on. I encourage you to hold on to these things, and build our life on these things.
10. With that said let me say that “the foundation” you must build your life on is ultimately is Him... “Jesus Christ” and a personal relationship with Him. If you don’t have that what I am about to say will do little good.
11. That is the place to start. Have you built your life... are you building your life on knowing Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? You must receive Jesus Christ in your life, making Him Lord and Savior. (Maybe pray right here).
12. Okay, let me share with you what to do to fully lean on/rely on the foundation God has laid for you so that you can build this kind of life and faith that can stand, and stand strong though the winds, and challenges, and changes, and storm of this life.

### HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION, THE PARABLE (Matthew 7:24-29)

In this closing parable found in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, Jesus give us three key having the right foundation and building on it. Let’s look at each of these and explore each key.

#### **3 Keys to Building A Firm Foundation for Your Life:**

##### **(1) A FIRM FOUNDATION IS BUILT ON MORE THAN JUST HEARING, BUT DOING WHAT HE SAYS (Matthew 7:24) -**

1. Did you notice how Jesus begins that parable in verse 24? Notice just the first that verse. Jesus says, <sup>24</sup> “Therefore whoever hears these saying of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on a rock.” In other words a firm foundation.
2. Back up to where we were just a couple of week ago, in the passage that immediately preceding this one, and notice the very important statement Jesus makes in verse 21... notice it... Jesus says, <sup>21</sup> “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.”
3. Jesus noted a marked inconsistency in the lives of the religious people of His day. \*Elsewhere He said of them, “... they (the religious leader of His day) do not practice what they preach” (Mt. 23:3)
4. In the reminder of our passage in Matthew 7:24-29 Jesus contrasts for us the consistent life, the one who hears God’s Word and puts in into practice (does what He says)... He contrast that with the inconsistent life (the one who does not do what He says), that one who hears but do not do.
5. The one who “does what He says” exhibits a life built on a firm foundation. That a picture of a genuine, consistent faith.
6. The one who hears but “does not do what He says, has a “shaky” foundation at best and that is a picture of that one who may claim it but doesn’t live it and if you notice in the parable we are looking at, the outcome for that one is tragic ( Jesus says of that one the fall of their house will be “great” in verse 27)
7. Jesus says a firm foundation that stands the test of this life doesn’t just hear His word, but does it... puts it into practice in his or her life... lives by it.
8. James, the half-brother of Jesus, seems to reflect his big brothers words in James 2:17 when he says “Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works is dead.”



9. And a little later in James 2:24, *"You see then that a man is justified by works, not by faith only."* ... not all meaning that you are saved by your works, but that your works give evidence of a faith foundation.
10. And then, as if that wasn't enough, James says in James 2:28, *"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead."*
11. You see, it's not the words you say that give evidence of a life built on a firm foundation, it's the life you live and exhibit that says you have built on a firm foundation.
12. It's not saying He is Lord (your foundation), it's letting Him be Lord in your daily life (your foundation).
13. There must be a consistency in the Christian life between your words and your actions otherwise your words are meaningless and give evidence of a faulty foundation.
14. Do what He says? Lean on what He says? Live it out?
15. I believe, with all my heart, you will find stability, hope, security, strength for the trials, and challenges, and difficult times in His word... in obeying His Word... in living His Word.
16. Psalm 119:105 reminds us that *"(His)... word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."*
17. God says through the prophet Isaiah, in Isaiah 55:11-12, *"So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."*
18. Do you get what God is saying to us about His Word... doing what He says?
  - Doing what He says will light your way... your path.
  - Doing what He says makes for peace in the midst of the storms.
  - Doing what He says makes the mountains and hills you face conquerable
  - In other words, you can lean on God's Word
19. Wow! Do what He says... live it!

**(2) A FIRM FOUNDATION IS NOT BUILT ON SHALLOW FOOTING, BUT ON DEEP ROOTED SOLID ROCK (Matthew 7:24-25)**

1. A part of building a firm foundation for your life, based on what God says, is doing what He says, following what He says, but it also has to do with relying on that foundation... or digging down deep and laying or building your life on something that is solid and can't be shaken. Right?
2. It's very interesting what Jesus is telling us in verses 24-25 in our passage... notice it carefully again, *"<sup>24</sup> 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: <sup>25</sup> 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."*
3. Twice in those two verses he refers to the "rock" the house was built on, that is the foundation. And not just any rock but "the rock." What is he talking about there... "the rock"?
  - a. By far the greatest difference between the specification of these two builders, the wise builder and the foolish builder, and the way they build is in the foundation they laid.

- b. The wise man built his house upon the rock in verse 24 of our passage.
  - c. Whereas the foolish man build his house on the sand in verse 26.
  - d. The word translated there as the “rock” is the Greek word “*petra*.” It does not mean a stone or even a boulder, but a great outcropping of rock, a large expanse of bedrock.
  - e. It is solid, stable, and unmovable.
  - f. “Sand,” by contrast, is loose, unstable, and extremely movable.
  - g. But the wise man builds his house upon a rock, and I believe the rock spoken of here is God’s Word... “*these sayings of Mine*” in verse 24 is equivalent to “*the rock*” in verses 24 and 25.
  - h. Building on the rock is equivalent to knowing and obeying the Word of God.
4. Listen to how Luke says it in his parallel account of this parable of Jesus. Luke 6:47-48 reads this way, “*47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.*”
  5. Luke’s account of this parable tells us of the “extra” effort this one put into his foundation.
  6. Luke says he “dug deep.” He went to the trouble of digging down to the bedrock in order to find a secure foundation for his house.
  7. A deep, sincere faith is what gives us that extra something that really gets us through the storms, the trials, the challenges, the winds that blow sometimes.
  8. When life gets hard that is the time to dig down deep and remember the sure foundation He has laid for us and rest in Him.

### **Illustration – Tower of America**

The “Tower of America” in San Antonio, Texas was built in 1968 for the World’s Fair held in that city that year. That tower stand 750 feet tall. On top of that monstrous tower is an observation deck and a restaurant from which you can look out over the city. One of the interesting things about that tower is that there is as much tower below the ground as there is above the ground. The foundation for the “Tower of America” is as deep as the tower is tall. That keeps the 750 foot tall structure from snapping and toppling over as it sways in the wind, and sway it does. I’ve actually stood on the observation deck of that tower and felt it sway in the wind. It’s a little unnerving... make you very glad for a deep and firm foundation.

### **Application –**

1. How deep, how solid is your foundation really?
2. I love Colossians 2:6-7. It reminds us how deep it ought to be.
3. Listen to Paul in Colossians 2:6-7, “*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*”
4. When our life is built on the foundation He has laid for us we can dig down deep in times of distress and find the strength to stand.

5. Listen the Christian faith, genuine faith is more than a superficial, shallow kind of commitment. It's more than an "appearances only" kind of life. A genuine faith that can stand the tests of time has a depth to it.
6. How deep is your faith... really? The depth of your faith may in fact tell how firm a foundation you have.
7. Are you rooted, built up, and established deeply in him?

#### **Illustration – “In Times Like These”**

The great old hymn, written by Ruth Caye Jones, known as Mother Jones, “In Times Like These” is such a great declaration.

In times like these, we need a Savior  
 In times like these, we need an anchor  
 Be very sure, be very sure  
 Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock

This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the one  
 This Rock is Jesus, The only One  
 Be very sure, be very sure  
 Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock

### **(3) A FIRM FOUNDATION CAN BE TRUSTED AND RELIED UPON NO MATTER HOW HARD THE WINDS AND STORMS MAY BLOW (Matthew 7:24-26)**

#### **Illustration – Christian Suffering**

I have had the opportunity as a minister to be by the bedside of many fine Christian people as they have struggled and suffering through long illnesses... some my own family members. Many of them have already gone to be with the Lord, but one thing that stand out in my mind as I have watched them in these difficult situations, they have without exception exhibited an unshakable faith even in the face of death itself, and I know with out a doubt that is because they were resting on... depending on... relying on the promise that whatever the storm they would stand victorious in the end. And they did! I believe that.

#### **Explanation –**

1. That kind of unshakable faith no matter what storm may come, maybe at the heart of what Jesus is saying in this parable of the wise and foolish builders.
2. Listen close to the parable one more time as I read it; (vv. 24-27), “<sup>24</sup> “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: <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> “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: <sup>27</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”
3. Did you notice what Jesus said in verse 25 about the man with a firm foundation? What happened when the floods and storms hit his house? His house stood strong, it stood, it was unshakable because it has a promised firm foundation.

4. The other house couldn't take the flood and the torrents and the storms. It collapsed because it had no foundation.
5. **Illustration/Timex Commercial Slogan** - Do you remember the old "Timex" commercial slogan from years back. "It take a licking and keeps on ticking." That's how it is with one who is leaning on the firm foundation that God has laid for us in Jesus Christ... the one who is trusting and relying on Jesus... your life can take a licking and keep right on ticking.
6. No matter what life can throw at you, no matter the changes that come, the winds that blow, or how hard the storms may beat upon your life.
7. No matter how the winds of disappointment, and discouragements may blow, you can depend on the promised sure foundation of Jesus Christ.
8. It's all about Him!

### **CONCLUSION –**

How firm is your foundation... really? That great old hymn, that we sang earlier in the service, "How Firm A Foundation," was written in 1787... 224 years ago. And it is just as sure and true as it was then, and it asks the same question Jesus ends the greatest sermons ever preach with

How firm is your foundation?