

The Need for Stability

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Introduction: It is crucial that each of us build a proper foundation.

- A. What is the application of Jesus on foundations? (**Mt 7:24-27**)
 - 1. Our children love to sing the song about this. What does it mean?
 - 2. Have you dug deeper and asked about the applications of this?
- B. Our God has provisions to help us build a foundation so that we can be stable.
 - 1. As we come to better know God, His character and his provisions, we will find ourselves active and consistent in His work. (**2 Thess 2:16-17**)
 - 2. This is a process of growth that we must choose.
 - 3. Look back and remember those who truly made a difference in the lives of many. What were they like?

I. Our God is in the foundation building business

- A. He built the earth to last as long as the universe. (**Ps 102:25; Heb 1:10**)
 - 1. When He lays a foundation then His work will stay in place.
 - 2. Our God is a stable God who works with absolute consistency. (**Heb 13:8**)
 - 3. This certainty is the basis of our comfort, patience and hope. (**Rom 15:4**)
- B. How does God build a foundation in us?
 - 1. He gives us a logical, defensible faith in Him. (**1 Pt 3:15**)
 - 2. He gives us a clear path to forgiveness. (**Acts 2:38**)
 - 3. He gives us a clear path to follow. (**Acts 2:42**)
 - 4. He gives us an identifiable people to associate with. (**2 Cor 6:14, 17-18**)
 - 5. He gives us a certain expectation of eternal salvation. (**Rom 8:24-25**)
- C. God exhorts us to carefully build such a foundation!
 - 1. It takes time after one becomes a Christian! (**Lk 6:48**)
 - 2. I remember the effort spent in building my foundation. I wanted to ask questions and challenge the religions of the world.
 - 3. The world hates the certainty of this foundation and seeks to discredit it.
 - 4. Real security and happiness is found when you have such a foundation.
- D. There is a time for instability while a foundation is being built. (**Eph 4:13-15**)
 - 1. Until that foundation is built the Christian is in danger.
 - 2. If they maintain the right relationship with his people then maturity will come. Here is where Satan will strike.
 - 3. Most false movements within the church have 3 prongs of attack. (1. Bitterness towards brethren 2. Pride towards brethren 3. A learned dishonesty.)

II. Characteristics of the unstable

- A. You cannot depend on them. (**Jn 2:23-25; Mk 4:17**)
 - 1. They cannot maintain long-term relationships.

2. They are easily upset and influenced by others (Used by others).
 3. They are quick to complain. (Israel and Moses)
- B. Reality changes easily.
1. Did those who rejoiced at the Lord's entrance stand for Him? (**Mt 21:9-11**)
 2. They are easily swayed by hurts and gossip.
 3. They are often uncertain in things they can know but certain in things they cannot know (**Col 2:18-19**)
- C. They are ego-centered.
1. It is all about them. As an example, the need for "originality."
 2. They can use the faults of others (real or imagined) to build self up. (**Lk 18:9, 11**)
 3. They are driven by relationships. (**Jn 5:44**)
 4. They cannot handle rebuke.
- D. They have no doctrinal core. (**2 Tim 3:7-10**)
1. Many have never learned to reason from scriptures. (**Jn 5:45**)
 2. Emotion drives what they perceive to be true.
 3. They are spiritual "marshmallows" – they refuse to stand and pay a price.
 4. They are fearful of solid truth and of those that hold them. (**2 Tim 1:8**)
 5. They are often excited by things that they cannot explain!

III. How to become stable

- A. Be established in the revealed love of God. (**Eph 3:16-17**)
1. *θεμελιόω* - literally *provide with a foundation, found, lay the foundation of* (MT 7.25); figuratively, as providing a firm basis for belief or practice *establish, strengthen, settle, cause to be firm and unwavering* (1P 5.10)
 2. The love of God is principled and revealed. We must learn it.
 3. Major in thanksgiving and praise to God! (**2 Thess 3:5**)
- B. Learn how to stand and suffer. (**Col 1:23; 1 Pt 5:10**)
1. Get away from the scoffers and the peddlers of uncertainty.
 2. Stand with those who are the focus of the scoffers! (**Heb 10:32-34**)
 3. Those who stand on principle will be your real friends! (**1 Thess 3:12-13; Heb 13:7**)
- C. Insist upon the sound doctrine of the apostles! (**2 Thess 3:3-4; 2:15**)
1. Taking all that was delivered to the apostles and standing in that alone is not "legalism."
 2. The whole council of God produces stability. The "positive" preaching of the world lets you be swayed by the doctrines of the day.
 3. Blessed are those who God's word has taken root in them! (**Prov 12:3, 12**)

Conclusion: Do you want God to use you as a tool for His purposes? Let's build a solid foundation! (**2 Kings 19:30**)