

Lesson 4

The Importance of Foundations

I. What is the nature of foundations?

A. The word “foundation” is a term used in relation to buildings.

In the Bible we are described as God’s building.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 3:9

For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.

Hebrews 3:6

... but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

It’s encouraging to know that we are not just an ordinary building but we are called “God’s building.” This means that God is very interested and involved in the process of ensuring that a solid foundation is laid in our lives.

B. Buildings are only as strong as their foundations.

A foundation is something that is put in place first before the building is built; yet many Christians only come to understand the importance of foundations long after they get saved. In most cases this means they have built their lives in the wrong order. Fortunately in God’s grace we can go back and rebuild our foundation to ensure our stability for the future.

C. A foundation is actively placed but hidden from public view.

The word in the Bible for foundation speaks of something that is put down as the substructure of a building. This is significant because even though it is unseen it is vitally important. It is derived from a word which means to place, sink down, settle, set, ordain, purpose or conceive.

D. A solid foundation can be very costly to build properly.

Luke 14:27-30

And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it- lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, “This man began to build and was not able to finish.”

II. Who is our Foundation?

A. Jesus is the only sure foundation.

As we emphasise foundations it is important to highlight that in order to have a solid foundation Jesus Christ must be at the center of our lives. Everyone's life is built on something, but is Christ at the center?

1 Corinthians 3:9-11

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:11-12

This is the "stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone." Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

It is important to note that although Jesus was the cornerstone, He was rejected by many. Foundations are so important and yet are often neglected or outright rejected.

B. The foundation of Christ is laid based on our hearing and doing what He says.

This is seen in Jesus' parable of the builders (Mt. 7:24-27; Luke 6:46-49). The difference between the two builders is that while both heard the word, only the wise man practiced the word that he heard.

Matthew 7:24-27

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: 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.

III. How are foundations established in our lives?

A. Our foundations are established by the teaching that we have received.

Many people become Christians but are not grounded in foundational doctrine. As we make disciples it's important to ensure that they are grounded with solid foundations. We must resist the temptation to focus on obscure revelations just because they are fascinating.

Hebrews 6:1-2

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

B. Our foundations are established by how we are connected to the body of Christ.

Ephesians 2:20-22

... having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

C. Our foundations are established by our obedience to God's Word.

Luke 6:49

But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.

D. Our foundations are established by our freedom from spiritual deception.

Colossians 2:6-8

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

IV. Why do we need God's foundations?

A. We need God's foundations because only God's foundation stands forever.

2 Timothy 2:19

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

B. We need God's foundations to withstand the storms of life.

Luke 6:47-48

Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 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.

C. We need God's foundations so that we are not easily moved.

Proverbs 10:25

When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more, but the righteous has an everlasting foundation.

D. We need God's foundations because only what endures is rewarded.

1 Corinthians 3:12-14

Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

V. Why do many people resist laying a proper foundation?

Based on the story of the two builders in Matthew 7 and Luke 6 we can say that the foolish builder built his house without a foundation because of the following reasons:

- A. Building without a foundation is easier and does not require obedience.**
- B. Building without a foundation is less painful because it does not require digging deep.**
- C. Building without a foundation is quicker and you can reach your goal sooner.**
- D. Building without a foundation is cheaper...at least at first.**

Building without a foundation ends up being more expensive because at some point the house without a proper foundation will collapse and have to be rebuilt. It is cheaper to build a house properly the first time than have to rebuild it over and over again.

(continues on next page)

Lesson 3
Reflection Questions

1. Do you have “building inspectors” examining your foundations?
2. What are the gaps and cracks you have seen in the foundations of your Christian life?
3. What can you do to fill these gaps?
4. Why do many Christians end up with weak foundations?
5. Do you have a solid understanding of foundational Christian Doctrine (Hebrews 6:1-2)?