

## I. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

### LESSON ONE

### ...ABOUT THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

#### INTRODUCTION

The Bible compares the life of a believer to the construction of a building. For instance, in the Epistle of Jude, verse 20, we read:

***"Building up yourselves on your most holy faith."***

The apostle Paul also uses the same picture. In I Corinthians 3:9-10, he says:

***"ye are God's building. As a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation."***

In Ephesians 2:22, he says:

***"Ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit"***

In Colossians 2:7, we read:

***"Rooted and built up in Christ, and established in the faith."***

In The Book of Acts, Acts 20:32 is another instance:

***"The word of God's grace is able to build you up."***

In all these passages, the believer's life is compared to the **construction of a building**.

In the natural order, **the first**, feature of a building which will stand the test of time is a solid, permanent foundation.

**Secondly**, there must be anchors which will secure the building to the foundation. Without these anchors a strong storm could blow the building off of the foundation and destroy it.

**Thirdly**, the building must be built according to the blueprints of the architect.

**Fourthly**, to keep the building in good condition regular maintenance must be performed.

Likewise, **to build a spiritual house/life** that will withstand the test of time **first** of all, a solid and permanent foundation must be laid upon which to build.

**Secondly**, there must be anchors which will secure the spiritual house/life to the foundation. Without these anchors the storms of life and the wind of doctrine will devastate and destroy the spiritual life of the believer.

**Ephesians 4:14, That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;**

**Matthew 7:27, And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house and it fell: great was the fall of it.**

**Thirdly**, the spiritual house/life of the believer must be built according to the blueprints drawn up by the Architect, God and set forth in the Bible.

**Fourthly**, to keep the spiritual house/life in good condition regular maintenance must be performed by the believer.

If this order is not established in a believer's life the structure of Christianity build in his/her life will collapse, leaving nothing but a ruined heap of vows and prayers and good intentions which have gone unfulfilled.

The purpose of this lesson is to (1) look at the foundation of the Christian Faith, (2) learn how that foundation is laid in one's life (3) to identify the anchors which will secure the believer's life solidly and permanently to that foundation and (4) see the need to follow God's blueprint for our spiritual house/life (5) develop a maintenance program that will keep one's spiritual life in good condition.

## **I. THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH**

We see from the following Scripture passages that the Lord Jesus Christ and He alone, is the true Rock, the Rock of ages, the only solid and permanent foundation upon which to build a spiritual house/life. The only one in whom is eternal salvation.

I Corinthians 3:11

1 Peter 2:6

Isaiah 28:16

Matthew 16:13-18

John 14:6

Psalm 18:2; Psalm 62 :1,2,5,6,7

Acts 4:12

## **II. HOW THE FOUNDATION IS LAID IN ONE'S LIFE.**

From the following Scriptures we see that the foundation of Jesus Christ is laid in one's life by means of the "**new birth**" (being born again) through **faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior from sin, death and hell.

John 3:3

John 3:4-8 (5)

John 1:12,13

Acts 16:30,31

John 3:16

John 1:29

Matthew 1:21

### **III. MAKING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION SECURE AND SOLID**

#### **A. ANCHORS FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

Now let us identify these **anchors** which will secure the spiritual house/life of the believer to the solid Foundation of Jesus Christ.

1. **REPENTANCE** is the first Anchor.

After one receives Jesus Christ as his Savior he must repent of all the sin in his life - to repent means to give up and turn away from those things in his life which are not godly; those things which do not glorify Jesus and reflect his new nature as a child of God; those things which would keep his spiritual house/life from being securely and firmly attached to the Foundation of Jesus Christ which has been laid in his life.

Hebrews 6:1, ". . . repentance from dead works . . . "

2. **WATER BAPTISM** is the second Anchor.

Acts 10:48 tells us that Water Baptism is commanded and therefore is a necessary act of obedience on the part of the believer if his spiritual life is to be securely built on the Foundation of Jesus Christ.

Acts 10:48, "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord."

3. **THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT** is the third anchor.

To make the Christian life, built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, sure and solid, the believer needs the BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, for the Holy Spirit gives the needed power for Christian living.

**Note:** The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is a separate event in the life of a believer from both the new birth experience and water baptism.

The following Scriptures reveal the need for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:49

Acts 1:4,5

Ephesians 5:18

Why needed?

John 15:26

John 16:13

Luke 24:49

How to Receive?

Acts 2:38

Luke 11:13

**4. CONFIDENCE IN ONE'S ETERNAL SECURITY/ETERNAL LIFE** is the fourth anchor.

For the Christian life, built on the Foundation of Jesus Christ, to be secure and solid, the believer needs to have the CONFIDENCE of the Apostle Paul that he has ETERNAL LIFE. He needs to know that ETERNAL LIFE is God's GIFT to him and that *he did nothing to earn it; neither does he deserve it; nor does he have to do anything to keep it; nor can he do anything to lose it.* Without this assurance of eternal salvation the structure, the Christian life which he builds on the Foundation of Jesus Christ will be at best shaky.

**Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**

The following Scriptures speak of the confidence we can have that we are Eternally Saved when we have received Jesus as our Savior.

Philippians 1:6

Romans 8:38,39

2 Timothy 1:12

Romans 6:23

1 John 5:11-13,20

## **B. BUILDING ACCORDING TO GOD'S BLUEPRINT**

Secondly, In making one's spiritual house built upon the Foundation of Jesus Christ secure and solid it must be built according to **GOD'S BLUEPRINT** as outlined in His Word, The Bible. This truth is seen in the following Scriptures.

2 Peter 1:20

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Psalms 119:11

Psalms 119:105

Matthew 4:4

Matthew 7:24-25

Luke 6:46

### **C. A MAINTENANCE PROGRAM FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

The believer needs to develop and put into practice in his spiritual house/life which he is building on the solid Foundation of Jesus Christ a maintenance program which will keep his house/life swept, clean and in good repair.

That maintenance program is **DAILY REPENTANCE**. Repentance as seen in the following Scriptures delivers one from the snare/trap of the devil and restores one to the refreshing presence of the Lord.

2 Timothy 2:25-26

Acts 3:19

### **SPIRITUAL TRUTH**

**The believer who anchors his spiritual house/life to this solid foundation of Jesus Christ, once laid in his life and builds thereon according to God's blueprints and has a maintenance program of daily repentance, can say, like David: "He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defense; I shall not be moved."**

### **RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH**

1. Has the foundation of Jesus Christ been lain in your life by way of the New Birth?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If "No" is there anything keeping you from receiving Jesus Christ right now?

2. Have you repented of your former life style since you believed?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_

If "No" is there anything keeping you from repenting of your former life-style right now?

3. Have you been water baptized since you believed?

If "No" is there anything keeping you from being baptized?

4. Have you received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit since you believed?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_

If "No" is there anything keeping you from receiving the Baptism with the Holy Spirit right now?

Acts 2:38

Luke 11:13 - "Ask and you shall receive."

5. Do you believe with absolute confidence that you have ETERNAL LIFE as a GIFT of God?

Yes\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_

If "No" what is keeping you from this confidence?

6. Is your spiritual house/life being built according to God's blueprint?

If "No", why not?

7. Do you keep your spiritual house/life swept and clean and in good repair through "daily repentance."

If "No", your surely need to start.