

Foundations

Foundations are something to build upon – firm, strong, unmoving

Malachi 3:6 *"For I the LORD do not change"*

Hebrews 13:8 *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."*

What sort of things do we build?

Our Body - baby's bodies are built on the genetic foundation of their parents, then on the food we eat, and things we drink; trained by exercise, and affected by age and disease.

Our Minds – are built on our learning and education ... peers, families, etc.

Work – childish desires, education-inspired imagination, desire for wealth or information, and usually some trial and error.

Relationships and Marriages – built on examples of our parents: good and bad, trial and error with siblings, girl and boyfriends, self-help books, social networking, etc.....

Religion – 'church', friends, maybe parents, Bible, preaching, etc.

Salvation – The only foundation of our faith must be **Jesus** – not the good works that we do in His name, or any other person or thing but the Rock.

2 Samuel 22:47 *"The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation"*

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 *I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.*

If we should build our salvation on Christ, why would we build anything else on anything or anyone else, and expect it to be fruitful and prosperous?

Body – Temple of the Holy Spirit – we should treat our bodies with great respect.... what we eat, how we exercise, taking appropriate rest... all these things can be founded on Scriptural principles.....

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 *Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

Mind – Needs to be renewed along Scriptural lines – by God's principles

Romans 12:1-2 *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Works – God laid out in advance what we should do

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

1 Corinthians 10:31 *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

Relationships – My love, your love, affectionate love, erotic love or God's love?

God's love is eternal and perfect, and we can only truly 'love' if God's love dwells in us. Our own love is weak, self-seeking and fleeting.

1 John 2:15 *Do not love (not like – sacrifice to or for) the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

Isn't it odd that to put down a foundation to build something 'up' we have first to dig down? A foundation laid on anything soft, weak, wet, moveable, etc. will not last. We dig down to find firm ground, and any builder would be delighted to get down to rock. If we dig down and still don't find something firm to build on we put in "pretend" rock! Tons and tons of concrete!!

Have you ever had to take an exam that was really tough? Learn a new skill that was really hard but worthwhile - like driving a car? Train for a new job that was really important? Have you ever had to 'dig down'? To 'dig deep' into yourself and your resources to get through these times? I certainly have.

There seems to be an eternal principle that anything truly worthwhile takes all our effort and concentration; they are hard to attain ... hard to grasp. Jesus talks, as recorded in Luke, about whoever would go to build a tower without first counting the cost. Foundations for a tower would be very expensive and have to be very deep and firm.

He was talking about the cost of following Him as a disciple!
Salvation is free, but the cost is your very life ... in its entirety!

Luke 6:46-49 *"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."*

What do you do if you started building all these things we mentioned before, long before you knew that Jesus was the rock?

1 Corinthians 3:9-15 *For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.*

If any foundation that we have built is weak, failing, leaning, unsafe, or unsound then there is good news. It can be made good, or replaced! We need to acknowledge before God that we have not built a good foundation and work hard to dig down and start again! If we don't we will reap the consequences outlined above.

We were reminded that before the nation of Israel was even aware of Him, the Spiritual Rock, Jesus - followed *them!* (1 Corinthians 10: 1-4 above) Now that we know Jesus, He has promised to never leave us ... He still goes where we go if we go in His Name. When He sent the disciples out, even before they fully understood who he was and why He had come, He told them that He would go to where they had been.

Luke 10:1 *After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.*

If we go to whatever foundations we have laid for whatever we have built... our own skill, our pride, our imperfect love, etc. and ask God to redeem it, to replace it, He will. Jesus will go with us in prayer to that place, and if we ask Him to, and He will change things.....

Unfortunately if we have built a unsteady 'house' (or whatever) on an unsteady foundation He may just have to tear it down first before He rebuilds it or allows us to, even on a better foundation. But if we truly trust Him and allow Him to get on with things, things will be better .. more secure, safer, steady, stronger, taller, better

Sometimes He even lets our 'house' fall down around our ears before we realize the foundation was all wrong. Anybody been there? I have

Jesus **wants** to be the foundation of not just our salvation but **our lives** in Him.

Will we invite Him into our jobs? Our relationships? Our good works? Our minds? Our leisure time? Our eating habits? And anything else that we're building up.....?

Repentance – *changing our mind-set* – to include Him in every aspect of our lives – is the key to prosperity in everything we do – everything we build.

Prayer is the key that opens the door to our prosperity.

Decide today to look at what's not working well in your lives – everything from your body to your car, your business to your hobby, your diet to your bank balance – and dare to invite Jesus to be the basis, the foundation, the starting point, and tell Him you're sorry for excluding Him in the first place. He will forgive you and move right in!

You may not have known any better when you started all these things, but you do now!