



Built to Stand

Matthew 7:24–27 (NASB)

Jesus described two people who built houses. One person built on rock; the other built on sand. Both houses faced rain, floods, and strong winds. The difference was the foundation.

Jesus said:

“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts on them, will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

—Matthew 7:24, NASB

The house built on the rock remained standing. The house built on sand fell.

Jesus was teaching an important lesson about obedience. Hearing God's Word is important. Acting on God's Word is also necessary.

Every believer will face storms. The storms may involve family relationships, financial difficulties, health concerns, job loss, grief, fear, or uncertainty. Life can change quickly.

The question is not whether storms will come. The question is this:

Where is your foundation?

A strong foundation prepares a house to withstand pressure. A strong spiritual foundation prepares a believer to remain faithful when life becomes difficult.



Life Reflection

Take an honest look at the foundation of your spiritual life. It is easy to feel secure when everything is going well. But storms often reveal areas where we have been depending on something other than Christ.

- What circumstances tend to shake your faith most?
- What does your response to difficulty reveal about the foundation of your spiritual life?
- Are there areas where you have been depending more on circumstances, people, or your own strength than on Christ?
- What is one thing you can do this week to strengthen your spiritual foundation?

Built in the Secret Place

A strong spiritual life begins with a personal relationship with God.

Jesus taught about the importance of prayer in Matthew 6:6 (KJV):

“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret.”

Prayer is more than something we do during a crisis. Prayer is part of our daily relationship with God.

The secret place is where faith becomes personal.

Public worship is important. Church fellowship is important. Bible studies are important. Yet God also wants time with us when nobody else is watching.

Daniel demonstrated this kind of commitment. Daniel 6:10 tells us that he continued to pray three times each day, even when prayer became dangerous.

Hannah also brought her deepest burden before God. She prayed with great emotion and surrendered her desire to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:10–18).

Prayer does not always change a situation immediately. Prayer changes our posture toward the situation.

Sometimes standing in faith means kneeling before God.

Sometimes standing means crying while praying.



Sometimes standing means continuing to trust God while waiting for an answer.

God may answer with a yes. He may answer with a no. He may ask us to wait.

God always knows what is best.

A believer who builds in the secret place develops strength that others may never see.

That strength becomes important when the storms arrive.

Life Reflection

Develop a consistent place and time for prayer. Your secret place does not need to be elaborate. It simply needs to be a place where you can intentionally turn your attention toward God.

Bring your burdens to Him before carrying them through the day. Instead of waiting for a crisis to force you to pray, make prayer part of your everyday relationship with Him.

- What does your current prayer life reveal about your relationship with God?
- Do you tend to pray primarily when you need something, or do you regularly spend time simply being with God?
- What distractions most often interfere with your time in the secret place?
- Is there a burden you need to surrender to God rather than continuing to carry it yourself?
- What practical change could help you become more consistent in prayer?

Built to Endure the Storm

Jesus said:

“And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.”

—Matthew 7:25, NASB

Notice that the storm came to the house built on the rock.

A strong foundation did not prevent the storm. The foundation helped the house withstand the storm.



Believers also experience difficult seasons.

A family may experience conflict. A person may lose a job. A financial crisis may create uncertainty. A medical report may bring fear. A loved one may pass away. We may experience disappointment or emotional pain.

Faith does not mean pretending that these situations do not hurt.

Faith means trusting God in the middle of the pain.

Peter learned this lesson when he walked toward Jesus on the water. Peter could walk as long as his attention stayed on Jesus. When he focused on the wind, fear took control.

Peter cried, “Lord, save me” (Matthew 14:30, KJV).

Jesus immediately reached out and caught him.

Peter's experience reminds us that fear can affect our faith. Difficult circumstances can become so loud that we stop focusing on Jesus.

When life becomes overwhelming, we can return our attention to Christ.

The storm may be loud, but Jesus is greater.

The situation may feel impossible, but God remains faithful.

The circumstances may change, but Jesus does not change.

Hebrews 13:8 (KJV) declares:

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”

The storm is temporary.

Jesus is eternal.

Therefore, believers can stand.

Life Reflection

When you are facing a storm, identify what is capturing your attention. Are you spending more time watching the circumstances than looking to Jesus?

This does not mean ignoring reality or pretending everything is fine. Bring the reality of your situation to God. Pray honestly. Seek wise counsel. Take appropriate action. Then deliberately return your focus to the One who remains unchanging.

- What storm are you facing right now?



- How has that situation affected your thoughts, emotions, or faith?
- What tends to happen when you focus more on the “wind” than on Jesus?
- What Scripture can you hold onto during this season?
- What would it look like to trust God even before your circumstances change?

Built on the Word

Jesus connected the wise builder with someone who **hears His words and acts on them.**

The foundation is not simply hearing Scripture. The foundation becomes strong when Scripture becomes part of our daily lives.

James 1:22 (KJV) says:

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

The Word of God should affect our decisions.

The Word should affect our relationships.

The Word should affect our priorities.

The Word should affect our character.

A believer can attend Bible studies regularly and still fail to apply what has been learned.

God wants His Word to move from our ears into our hearts and then into our actions.

Obedience strengthens the foundation.

When we forgive because Scripture teaches us to forgive, we are building.

When we remain faithful during difficulty, we are building.

When we choose holiness, we are building.

When we continue praying while waiting, we are building.

When we obey God even when obedience is difficult, we are building.

Every decision becomes part of the structure of our spiritual lives.



Life Application

Choose one truth from God's Word that you know you need to put into practice. Instead of simply reading or discussing it, identify one specific action you can take.

Perhaps God is calling you to forgive someone, change a habit, make a difficult decision, extend grace, speak truth, or remain faithful in an area where you have become discouraged.

Let the Word move from your Bible to your heart, and into your everyday life.

- What has God recently shown you through His Word?
- Are there biblical truths you know but struggle to practice?
- Is there an area where God is asking you to obey even though it is difficult?
- How does obedience strengthen your relationship with God?
- What is one specific step of obedience you can take this week?

Built to Reach Others

God does not build our lives only for our own benefit.

Paul described believers as God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:9–10 (NASB)

"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it."

God is building something within every believer.

God builds faith.

God builds character.

God builds spiritual strength.

He also builds us so we can help reach others.



Our spiritual growth should eventually bless someone else.

We still have family members who need Jesus. We have friends, neighbors, coworkers, and communities that need the hope of the Gospel.

We can pray for people, but we can also take action.

We can share Scripture.

We can share our testimony.

We can invite someone to a Bible study.

We can encourage someone who is struggling.

We can show the love of Christ through our actions.

Acts 8:4 describes believers who were scattered because of persecution. Those believers did not stop sharing the Gospel.

“Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.”

—Acts 8:4, NASB

The circumstances changed.

The mission continued.

God can use ordinary believers to reach people in places where they live and work.

The church must continue building.

The church must continue reaching.

The church must continue planting.

The church must continue making disciples.



Life Reflection

Think about the people God has already placed around you. You do not have to wait for a platform or a formal ministry position to make a difference.

Ask God to show you one person you can encourage, pray with, invite to church or Bible study, or simply love intentionally this week.

The strength God develops in you is not meant to stop with you. Let your spiritual growth become someone else's encouragement.



- Who has God placed in your life who may need encouragement or spiritual support?
- How can your testimony point someone toward Jesus?
- Are you more focused on maintaining your own spiritual life, or are you also looking for opportunities to reach others?
- What is one practical way you can share the love of Christ this week?
- How might God use something you have experienced to help someone else?

A House That Stands

Reports of natural disasters often show the power of storms and floods. Homes can be surrounded by water within minutes. Soil can be washed away. Roads can disappear. Buildings can become unstable.

One flood story from Nepal drew attention because a house remained standing while floodwaters surrounded the property.

The surrounding ground was severely affected by the flood, yet the structure remained standing because its foundation was anchored deep.

The picture provides a powerful spiritual reminder.

A house may look beautiful from the outside. The real strength of the house depends on what supports it underneath.

The same principle applies to our spiritual lives.

A person may look strong on the outside. A person may appear confident and successful. Yet difficult circumstances eventually reveal the strength of the foundation.

Storms reveal foundations.

Pressure reveals foundations.

Waiting reveals foundations.

Disappointment reveals foundations.

The question is not whether our lives will ever be shaken.

The question is whether our foundation will remain secure when the shaking comes.

Jesus Christ must be our foundation.

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:11 (NASB):



“For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

There is no better foundation.

Life Reflection

Do not wait for a storm to discover what your life is built upon. Take time now to examine your foundation.

Ask God to reveal anything you have allowed to take His place—success, relationships, financial security, comfort, recognition, or your own abilities.

Then intentionally place those areas back under His authority. A secure foundation is developed through daily surrender, not simply during times of crisis.

- What tends to give you a sense of security?
- What happens to your faith when something you depend on is suddenly taken away?
- Are there areas of your life that need to be surrendered more fully to Christ?
- What evidence do you see that Jesus is truly the foundation of your life?
- How can you strengthen that foundation in the days ahead?

Built to Stand

Matthew 7 gives us two builders.

Both heard the words of Jesus.

Both built houses.

Both experienced storms.

Only one house remained standing.

The wise builder did more than hear.

The wise builder acted.

The wise builder built on the rock.

Today, we have the same choice.

We can build our lives on temporary things. We can depend on circumstances, possessions, success, relationships, or human strength.

Or we can build on Jesus Christ.



Jesus is the Rock.

When life is peaceful, build on the Rock.

When life is uncertain, build on the Rock.

When the answer seems delayed, build on the Rock.

When circumstances change, build on the Rock.

When the storm comes, remain on the Rock.

The goal is not simply to survive the storm.

The goal is to be built to stand.

Build in the secret place.

Build through prayer.

Build through God's Word.

Build through obedience.

Build through faith.

Build through perseverance.

Then allow God to use what He has built in you to reach someone else.

The storm may come.

The wind may blow.

The waters may rise.

But when your life is founded on Jesus Christ, you have a foundation that stands.

You are built to stand because Christ is the Rock.



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