



Rooted in God's Love

The words of Psalm 11:3 ask the questions :**“When the foundations are shaken, what can the righteous do?”** One of the key things we need to do is find a secure place to stand, and dig secure foundations for our lives that will keep us in the shakiest of times. We do this by leaning in more and more to the One who NEVER changes. Study the following passages to find out how such a life is possible. Jesus has been teaching both his disciples and the crowds who are following Him. As He finishes He tells a parable.

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

PSALM 1

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
² but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.
³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.
⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; ⁶ for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Joshua 1:8

⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

READ Matthew 7:24-27 and underline the words “hears these words of Mine”

What are the details about the two men in this story that are the same? List them.

Why did the same storm have a different impact on each one? What was the key issue?

Wise—Strong’s 5429—thoughtful, intelligent, prudent

Foolish—Strong’s 3473 - fool, get our word moron for this word

From these verses what makes the difference to the strength of our foundations?

This theme flows through all of the Bible. And this is the way of flourishing.

READ Psalm 1. Put a  round any words referring to the man who is blessed.

In v 1 –2 what does this man not do?

What is his relationship with God’s Law?

Delight—Strongs 2656—desire, longing , pleasure

Meditate—Strongs 1897—mediate, muse, moan, mutter

How do the words “delight” and “meditate” reflect his attitude to God’s Law?

How does his life look as a result of this?

What is the contrast with the wicked?

How does Joshua 1:8 support this?

This is not new truth to us, but how do we live this out in our every day life? And what does it look like for us as we walk in obedience to God?

The night before Jesus died, He spoke to His disciples about the nature of their changing relationship. He repeatedly spoke to them about obeying His commands—and wanted them to understand that this would be the pathway to intimacy.

READ the passages in John 14 and 15 and list under each one what you learn about keeping His commands. What will the outcome be?

John 14:15

John 14:21

John 14:23

John 15:9-10

John 15:14-16

What is the difference between being a servant and being a friend? How does this impact on obedience?

In what ways is obedience the pathway to deeper intimacy with the Lord? Notice the progression.

READ Ephesians 3:14-19 and put a around the words “that” and “so that”

What are Paul’s specific requests?

Note where you marked “so that” - what was his expected outcome if his request was answered?

How does this tie in with what you learned in John’s gospel?

What is the key to an unshakeable life?

John 14:15

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

John 14:21

²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.

John 14:23

²³ Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

John 15:9-10

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.

John 15:14—16

¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Ephesians 3:14-19

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

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