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# Rebuilding The Foundation (It's What You Don't See That Matters Most)

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## Rebuilding The Work

Pastor Wil Nichols

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***Sermon: Rebuilding The Work: Rebuilding The Foundation (It's What You Don't See That Matters Most)***

***Lesson Text***

Ezra 3:9–10 (KJV) <sup>9</sup> Then stood Jeshua *with* his sons and his brethren, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together, to set forward the workmen in the house of God: the sons of Henadad, *with* their sons and their brethren the Levites. <sup>10</sup> And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel.

Ephesians 2:19–20 (KJV) <sup>19</sup> Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; <sup>20</sup> And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

Isaiah 28:16 (KJV) <sup>16</sup> Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner *stone*, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Matthew 7:24–27 (KJV) <sup>24</sup> **Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: <sup>25</sup> And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. <sup>26</sup> And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: <sup>27</sup> And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.**

***Introduction***

So far in the series, “Rebuilding The Work,” we’ve been looking at the things that happen before we begin the work.

In our previous sermon, we first looked at we must rebuild when we begin the work, and that is the Altar of Courage, Altar of Sacrifice, and the Altar of Praise.

Today, we will now look at the rebuilding of the foundation.

The foundation is the lowest load-bearing part a building and is typically below ground. It carries most of the weight but is typically never seen. Other names for it is the substructure, footing, or underpinning.

The height and stability of a building starts with it and it is dictated by the size, depth, and substance of its foundation.

If the foundation is not right, then no matter how much you put in the work of the building, it will never be right.

There are three type of people we typically deal with.

- Unstable people who can't be depended upon because they are always changing, shifting, and moving.
- Shallow or hollow people who have no substance and they always crack under pressure.
- Solid people who bend but don't break. No matter what you put on them, they always seem to take it and come back stronger.

What determines who is unstable, shallow, or solid is not what we see today, but what foundation were they built upon yesterday.

When a person's foundation is sandy, they will be unstable and shifty. When their foundation is shallow or hollow, they will crack under pressure. And when a person foundation is solid, they may bend, but they will never break.

***Series and Sermon: Rebuilding The Work: Rebuilding The Foundation (It's What You Don't See That Matters Most)***

***“What's Under You, What's In You, and What's On You”***

### ***I. The Shifting Foundation (What's Under You)***

Matthew 7: <sup>26</sup> **And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: <sup>27</sup> And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.**

The first thing we must make sure of when building our foundation is what's under it. What are we building our foundation on top of.

A lot of things fail, not because they built it wrong, but because they started it wrong. When what's under the foundation is unstable, then everything built on top of it will be unstable.

Have you have ever met a person that was aways changing their mind? Have you seen a ministry or business that was always changing their vision? Have you known someone who was always moving, always going to the next thing, new person, new job, new church?

James 1:8 (KJV)<sup>8</sup> A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

I call them “Sandy People”!

Our world is filled with unstable sandy people with unstable marriages, unstable families, unstable finances, unstable careers, unstable ministries, unstable churches, and even unstable minds. Why? Because what's under them; sand which is unstable (shifting, moving, changing).

Sandy people can fool you and make you think they're stable, but if you just wait for the next storm, they will reveal themselves.

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

But that same storm can also reveal another type of people, "Rocky People"!

Matthew 7: <sup>24</sup> **Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: <sup>25</sup> And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.**

"Stop trying to figure out who people are, and just wait for the Storm!"

Stop wishing and hoping that things will work out and build your hope on the Rock!

- *My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus Christ, my righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*
- *On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.*

## ***II. The Cracked Foundation (What's In You)***

Ephesians 2: <sup>19</sup> Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; <sup>20</sup> And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

The next thing we must make sure of when building our foundation is what's in it. What are the materials we are using to build our foundation.

Have you ever met a person that was very shallow? They looked good on the surface, but there was nothing to them, they had no substance, they are basically hollow on the inside.

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

James 2:20 (KJV)<sup>20</sup> But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

I call them "Shallow or Hollow People".

They can't take nothing, and they don't have nothing! And so their foundation is easily cracked.

Perhaps you've seen a house with cracks in the wall. You can patch up the cracks, paint over them, but eventually the cracks will come back and get even bigger. Why? Because the foundation is cracked.

Depending upon how high the build building is to be built, and how heavy the materials of the building are, if that foundation is not thick and solid enough, it will crack.

"I'm going higher, and I'm going to need a solid foundation!"

Ephesians 2: <sup>20</sup> And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;

The foundation of the Apostles and Prophets was Jesus Christ, the Word of God. These are “Solid People”.

Matthew 16:15–18 (KJV)<sup>15</sup> He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?** <sup>16</sup> And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.** <sup>18</sup> And I say also unto thee, **That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

When you are filled with the Word of God, your Faith is Solid. Romans 10:17 (KJV)<sup>17</sup> So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

When you are filled with the Word of God, your Protection is Solid. Isaiah 54:17 (KJV)<sup>17</sup> No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; ...

When you are filled with the Word of God, your Fight is Solid. Ephesians 6:17 (KJV)<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

### ***III. The Sure Foundation (What's On You)***

Isaiah 28:16 (KJV)<sup>16</sup> Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner *stone*, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

- We must not build on a Shifting Foundation; but build our house on the Rock!
- We must not build on a Cracked Foundation; but build our house on Faith!
- We must not build on a Weak Foundation: but build our house on a Tried Stone!

A Sure Foundation means that the foundation has been tried, tested, and is safe to build on.

Isaiah 28:16 (NLT)<sup>16</sup> Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: “Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken.

Years ago, hundreds, if not thousands of people would lose their lives during hurricanes because the houses they were in couldn't handle the violent winds and floods of the storms.

But then they begin to build buildings that were rated to handle category 3, 4, and 5 hurricanes. The foundations wouldn't shift during the floods, the building wouldn't fall during the winds.

And how did they know this? Because their foundations and buildings had been tested.

Too many people are cracking under pressure, they are shifting and drifting away during the storms of life. They fill like too much is being put on them.

But it's not too much for Jesus, it's not too much for the Rock, it's not too much for the Word.

1 Corinthians 15:55–57 (KJV)<sup>55</sup> O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? <sup>56</sup> The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16: <sup>18</sup> And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 11:28–30 (KJV)<sup>28</sup> Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

The Clark Sisters sang a song that said: I tried Him and I know Him, Found Him to be a friend. I know too much about Him, On Him I can depend. Saved my soul, made me whole. There is none like him.

# Rebuilding The Foundation (It's What You Don't See That Matters Most)

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## Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Rebuilding The Foundation (It's What You Don't See That Matters Most))

### Lesson Text

- Ezra 3:9–10, Ephesians 2:19–20, Isaiah 28:16, Matthew 7:24–27

### Sermon Outline (Notes)

- I. *The Shifting Foundation (What's Under You)*
- II. *The Cracked Foundation (What's In You)*
- III. *The Sure Foundation (What's On You)*

### Questions (What was your takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

#### I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. Which of the following popular advertising slogans could be about you and why? a) Your in Good Hands with \_\_\_ b) The Few, The Proud, The \_\_\_ c) Like a Good Neighbor, \_\_\_ is There d) \_\_\_: Think Different e) Because You're Worth It
2. What title would you give your autobiography? Why?

#### II. Into the Bible

1. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." What does Jesus' statement mean and what rock is He referring to?
2. James 2:20 KJVS says, "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" What type of works show our faith? Give an example/illustration.

#### III. Life Application

1. Philippians 2:12 admonishes us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. How do we work out what is in us on a daily basis?
2. Call to Action: Identify one area of your life that has a cracked foundation. What will you do for the next 30 days to rebuild in that area? (This is personal, so only share if you're comfortable.)