

UPWARD CALL

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but this is my one aim: to forget everything that's behind, and to strain every nerve to go after what lies ahead. I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God
IN KING JESUS.

(Philippians 3:13-14)

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Jesus—Clear & Clarify the One Foundation

According to the grace of God which is being granted to me, as a wise foreman I lay a foundation, yet another is building on it. Yet let each one beware how he is building on it." For other foundation can no one lay beside that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:10-11 CLV)

As written elsewhere, in constructing any type of building, the most important part of the structure is the foundation because the whole weight of the building must rest on it. The foundation is everything. If the foundation is not built properly, then the building will not withstand the many forces of nature that might come against it, such as wind, rain, temperature extremes, or violent shaking of the ground due to earthquakes. The type of soil or rock the foundation is set in, the depth of the foundation, and the material used to construct the foundation determine its strength and the fate of the building. Foundations that are built in sand, are not dug very deep, or are constructed of inferior materials are most vulnerable to all the stresses placed on them. If the foundation is faulty, then the building will not stand. Ultimately, if not built properly and not made of the right material, the whole building will collapse if the forces of nature shake or stress it sufficiently.

We are living in days of shaking, and every created thing that can be shaken will be shaken so that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Why? We receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken and that kingdom is the Stone Kingdom that is built on the Rock (Daniel 2:35; Hebrews 12:26-28).

There is only one foundation that can and will withstand the shaking; it is none other than our Lord Jesus. God's foundation is Christ, and all that is built upon Him shall remain. If it is not built upon Him and is not built of His character, then it will crumble and in the last day it will come short of the glory of God. There is only one true foundation, and we need to be built upon Him alone, and with His life.

In fact, He is more than just the foundation. Jesus is the whole building. It is *Christ all in all*. He is the foundation, the cornerstone, the top stone, and all the materials of God's great building project called *New Jerusalem*. Christ is the one who fills all in all (Ephesians 1:23). We must be clear that anything built upon a foundation other than the foundation of King Jesus will crumble in the day of judgment.

"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall." (Matthew 7:24-27 NASB)

These words were spoken after the Lord had said that *not everyone who says, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of the heavens, but only those who do the will of God the Father who is in heaven*. If we are not doing according to the will of the Father, then we are building on sand. Entering into God's kingdom is

based on obedience to God's will, which starts with believing and putting trust in His Son—being ***Christ-abiders***.

Listening to what comes forth from the pulpits and the multiple forms of Christian media today, it makes one wonder if there is a great divide between what God is doing and what His people are doing; a *disconnect* of sorts, as if there is a sea of confusion built upon and encouraged by the flesh of men. The church-at-large is so divided over so many things—teaching so many things, emphasizing so many things, and building so many things that, if it were all put together, it would leave our heads spinning in a vortex with no way out. Add to this the traditions of men, and the situation becomes even more distressed. The Lord Jesus stood against the precepts of men (Mark 7:6-9) that are a mighty powerful force that keeps the Lord's people from pressing on toward the goal and being readied for the Lord's arrival. Many are looking either to die and go to heaven or to escape this earth in the so-called *rapture* and leave the rest of mankind to rot in man's hell, all the while crying over the lost. What is the answer to all this?

First, we need to clear the foundation. When the remnant of Israel was called out of Babylonian captivity, they returned to Jerusalem that was in ruin. The temple had been destroyed and was left a pile of rubble. Under the leadership of Zerubbabel, the remnant was called to rebuild the temple, the house of God. But before they could start the work, they had to clear away all the waste material. Why? Because underneath all the ruin lay the place of the original foundation. They had to remove all that was hindering their view so that they could start the work of restoring the foundation and rebuilding the house of God.

We must do the same if we are to be about our God's business. God has laid the foundation. It is not in need of repair, but we must dig down to be built upon, not an it, but upon the person of King Jesus. We must sweep aside all our ambition, our name, our title, our position, our energy, our desires, our natural ability, our resources, our ingenuity, our purpose, plans, and strategies, and, most of all, our traditions, and anything else that is of our old fallen nature and not of God. It is time to sweep it all clean in order to see our Lord afresh, seeing who and what He is.

Second, we need to clarify the foundation. *Clarify* means "to be free of confusion," "to become clear," or "to have clarity." In other words, we need to be abundantly sure that all we do, both collectively and individually, is based on the foundation of the Messiah Jesus. We must be sure that we are doing the will of God and that what we are doing is according to the character of Christ, expressed by the fruit of the spirit and substantiated by the word of God. Is it of Christ, or is it of man? Are we building with gold (divine love), silver (righteousness), and precious stone (fruit of the spirit), or are we building with wood, hay, and straw (i.e., the materials and character of the flesh) (1 Corinthians 3:12)? Are we resting in the Lord, waiting on the Father, seeking to know what He is doing, and then responding only as His spirit leads? Are we listening for His voice and obeying Him as He directs us! Your will be done!

To clarify the foundation, we need vision, something that seems to be so lacking in our day. Oh, the Lord's people talk a lot about vision and strategy and act out of these things, but are they of the Lord or of their own doing? Where there is no vision, that is, spiritual, heavenly vision, the people perish. Without vision, we will be swept off the foundation of Christ and onto a faulty foundation. What is vision? It is seeing something with the eyes of our heart. It is spiritual sight based on God's word as revealed by the spirit of truth. Paul prayed for the Ephesians that the eyes of their heart would be enlightened (Ephesians 1:18). If there is cloudiness in our vision, then we must fervently seek the Lord to open our spiritual eyes to see more clearly and to give us clarity. As David said: *Thy face, O LORD, I shall seek* (Psalm 27:8). Let us be clear that we are not living in the ruins of wood, hay, and straw. Let us clear and clarify the foundation. Let us set our lives on the firm foundation of Christ and build our lives upon His character.