

A LESSON SERIES ON THE FUNDIMENTALS

ROOTED



Sunday 4/12/26 - Rooted Lesson 1

The Foundation - Rooted and Built Up

I'm excited to begin teaching this series of lessons that we are calling "Rooted." In this series we will be examining some of the basics of Christian living. The title of the lesson today is, "The Foundation - Rooted and Built Up."

I believe it is important for us as a church to every once in a while take a look at our foundation to make sure it is still secure and stable. It is important to every once in a while examine the foundation to make sure there are no cracks or holes in the foundation. Now it is true that we can't always be shining the spotlight on the foundation and never building upward. There is a time to leave the foundation and start building, because if we are always laying the foundation then the building will never get built. But please hear me that I am not speaking of leaving the foundation in the sense that we build somewhere over here but the foundation that we laid is somewhere over there. No, it is important that we stay on the foundation and never leave the foundation. Without the foundation the building that God wants us to build can never be built. I cannot over stress the importance of the foundation.

Colossians 2:1-12, *"¹For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; ²That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; ³In whom are hid all the*

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treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. ⁵For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. ⁶As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: ⁷**Rooted and built up in him**, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. ⁸Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. ⁹For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. ¹⁰And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: ¹¹In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: ¹²Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” What a great passage of Scripture that speaks about the importance of not only having a foundation, but having the right foundation.

Ephesians 3:14-21 says, ¹⁴For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; ¹⁷That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, **being rooted and grounded in love**, ¹⁸May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. ²⁰Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, ²¹Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” This is another great passage of Scripture that speaks of us being rooted and speaks to the importance of having not only a foundation, but it speaks to the importance of having the right foundation.

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This leads me to a principle that I want to share with you. **What we build will only stand if what it's built on can hold the weight. And really what we build reveals what we believe.** Some of you may have had the opportunity to go to the place where the Twin Towers once stood, the World Trade Center. Before they came down they were massive buildings that seemed to stretch way above anything else and almost into the heavens. But when they came down for those who were able to see that sight and be there about a year later it was amazing the size of the hole that was left in the ground. There were massive amounts of work that was done underground long before any progress was seen above the ground. That's why I say, **What we build will only stand if what it's built on can hold the weight. And really what we build reveals what we believe.** Every life, every walk with God is being built upon something. The question is: "What are we building on?"

In seasons when everything seems to be going fine, foundations don't get much attention. When things look strong on the surface, foundations don't get looked at. When the building looks pretty and everything seems to be in order, nobody looks for cracks in the foundation. My life is going smoothly. My health is in good shape. My finances are in order. Everything in my life is operating effectively. But when the pressure comes and storms arise, and culture shifts, then foundations are exposed. Seasons of pressure and difficulty have a way of uncovering what is typically hidden beneath the surface. Seasons of sickness or unexpected circumstances often times expose the depth of our spiritual roots that had either been there in the past or still need to be developed.

The truth is that times of crisis don't create foundations, but they reveal them. Times of difficulty remind us of just how important it is to build our lives on the right foundation, long before the pressure comes. The Lord Jesus spoke directly to this in His parable of the wise and foolish builders. Both built houses. Both invested time and effort. Both structures probably looked good. Until the

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storm came. The difference wasn't only in the outward appearance. The biggest difference was in the foundation. One was built on sand and the other was built on a firm foundation. And this points to a truth that must be declared. **Storms don't create weakness, but they reveal the weakness that is already there.**

In the remainder of this lesson I want to discuss some of the things that we build upon.

- Our foundation is the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Our foundation is the Word of God.
- Our foundation is correct doctrine from His Word or knowing how to rightly divide the Word.
- Our foundation is the church of the living God.

Only when we build upon the right foundation will it be able to provide for the future generation coming behind us.

For our lives and families and church to stand the test of time, the Word of God must remain our foundation. Biblical preaching and teaching help anchor us in truth, revealing the enduring power of Scripture. In a world searching for clarity what people need most is not an edited and changed message built upon what we believe is the right way to go, but what they need is the steady and unchanging message of God's Word faithfully shared.

- The Word of God has outlasted empires.
- The Word of God has survived persecution.
- The Word of God has overcome criticism.
- The Word of God has sustained countless attempts to discredit it.
- Governments have risen and fallen, but the Word of God has remained.
- Economies have surged and collapsed, but the Word of God has remained.
- Cultural values have repeatedly shifted, but the Word of God has remained.

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The Word of God has remained steady, sure, and settled. What a comfort to know that when our lives are built on the Word of God, we are anchoring ourselves to something that does not change with the times. The Word of God alters our lives and shapes our beliefs. The Word of God guides our decisions and helps correct our course. The Word of God provides clarity and confidence when everything feels unstable.

Another thing that we build upon that will remain stable and carry the weight is **correct doctrine**. Correct doctrine is not optional. Correct doctrine is necessary in every area of our lives and church. It answers the “why” behind what we believe and practice. For Apostolic believers, correct doctrine is not a secondary issue, but it is foundational. What we believe about God, salvation, repentance, baptism, the infilling of the Holy Ghost, and holy living forms the framework of everything else we do. Correct doctrine gives us identity, direction, and unity.

When doctrine is minimized in favor of an easier way or personal preference, foundations are weakened. When correct doctrine is neglected, confusion follows. But when correct doctrine is taught with clarity and conviction it creates stability not just for today, but for generations to come. Correct doctrine is a strong foundation upon which a strong church can be built.

Another thing we build our lives upon as a foundation is **the church**. Can I tell you that church still matters. Faithfulness to God’s house still matters. In a world where individualism is celebrated and commitment is often viewed with suspicion, the importance of the church cannot be overstated. The church is not merely a gathering place, it is God’s design for discipleship, growth, accountability, and mission. A healthy church provides structure in a shifting world. It becomes a place where people are rooted, taught, prayed for, and sent. It is where faith is strengthened, gifts are developed, and lives are shaped

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over time, not through personality-driven influence, but through Spirit-led discipleship.

Perhaps the greatest weight, our foundations must carry is the future. The next generation is entrusted to us. Our youth are growing up in a culture that changes faster than ever. They face daily pressure related to identity, truth, morality, and purpose. They need a solid church where truth is proclaimed, and God's presence can be felt and experience in a powerful way.

When the foundation is strong, young people, families, and future generations can build their lives with confidence. They can ask hard questions without losing their footing and they can engage with culture thoughtfully without being swept away by it. A well established foundation helps people discover a faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, that is alive, powerful, and truly transformative.

So my word to this church as we begin this series of lessons is we need to learn to dig deep before we try to build high. Foundations are not that exciting. People don't see the foundation of a beautiful building, but that does not make it less critical. We need foundations because without them, nothing else can stand. Our calling as leaders and as the people of God is to dig deep to ensure that what we are building is anchored in the Word of God. We must ensure that our foundation is grounded in doctrine. We must ensure that our foundation is strengthened by the church, and empowered by the spirit. Because the height of what we build tomorrow will always depend on the depth of what we established today. And in a world that feels increasingly uncertain, one thing remains clear — Foundations matter.

