

06262022. ... Jesus has gone to the mountain, chosen his twelve, and is speaking to the crowds and He switches from teaching about the ways a disciple should and will live ...then looking at them tells them ...some of you are not really my disciples... remember Judas is among these disciples and others like Judas are there also...They followed Jesus until following him got hard or went against their feeling or ideas ... And he addresses this..

NLT Luke 6:46 “So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don’t do what I say? 47 I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it.

And he gives them The litmus test which will separates the true disciples of his from the false ones...and it is fairly simple to determine, the true disciples are those

Tim put this up Please

The test of a true disciple consists of four parts:

1. Simply saying “Lord Lord is not a test that determines whether one is truly a Christ follower or not as there are those who are not His disciples that also will say “Lord, Lord”.
2. **One must believe him to be Lord...**(master, sovereign, and has the authority and power of God)
3. **One must actively listen to what he teaches**
4. **One must do what he teaches**

The key of following Jesus according to Jesus is not hearing his word only but putting his word into practice...it is hearing his teaching and applying his teaching to one’s life

The hardest part of listening to the Word of God...is giving it the same value that Jesus gives it!

NLT Luke 9:23 Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up **your cross** daily, and follow me.

The truth is that we all weigh the words of Jesus. We give some words great value and others not so much. The ones we value more we give more weight or influence in our lives...some areas of life we are willing to take up the cross and follow him...some areas we are not!

- **the problem with that thinking is we think Jesus agrees with our assessment...and our lack of obedience to what he says**
- **Christ followers are not one who simply fit the Word of God into their lives, as an add on, an addendum...**
- **We must establish a world view of life according to the Word of God and the Lordship of Jesus Christ.**
- **A kingdom View...were citizens and family, warriors and ambassadors**
- **Nothing less will bring Him glory and expand His kingdom in the world.**

And the results of our beliefs are revealed in two ways his tells his disciples...

Again 6:47 I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it.

1) Listening and applying his word (Obeying)will result in: producing Good Fruit in our lives ...how do I know if I am producing good fruit...

Luke 6:43 “A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. ⁴⁴ A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes. ⁴⁵ A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an

evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.

Our life expresses loud and clear the result of our dominant thoughts. Thoughts are words...thoughts are our self talk and our mouths produce the talk for others to hear...

For Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...(KJV)

How you think...self talk ..you will be in behavior...

- **With our words we express our beliefs to ourselves and about ourselves, our environment, our circumstances, our relationships. This self-talk influences to a great degree our actions and this is what truly gives them their power.**
- **The effect that self-talk has is incredible: it can inform, persuade us , encourage or discourage us, give hope or destroy hope, express love or hate, forgive or condemn us, build us up or tear us down. Words are seeds.**

PR 18:4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters, but the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook

- **We all, at times overlook the far-reaching strength of our words, but this ignorance makes us no less susceptible to their power. They are deep waters...wisdom is a bubbling brook...that must mix with the deep waters slowly converting them to living water**
- **This is How words influence us ...Words create impressions, images and expectations. They build psychological connections. Words reveal what we believe and They influence how we act.**
- **Since thoughts (which are words in our minds) determine actions, there's a powerful connection between the words we use and the results we get.**

And we can't underestimate the ability of words, whether they are good and true or evil and false, to lodge deep within our consciousness and grow to become a part of us...producing fruit according to what is in our heart...

- **The right Self talk can be healing; it can transform us, give us strength and courage. There is definitely power in words.**

PR 18: 21 The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

Words start out as air seeds... All words, whether they are true or not, have the potential to lodge in our ears and go down to our hearts and grow, just as seeds have the potential to lodge and grow in the earth the produce fruit.

*****If your Heart and and thoughts are not controlled by God...Rest assured your speech is not either...and neither is your life...**

The second way a disciple is distinguished from a fake disciple...how they survive storms!!

Again 6:47 I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it.

Luke 48 It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. 49 But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins."

- **Being a carpenter, Jesus knew about trees, the wood, their roots and how to build houses. He knows that when we build a house, we cannot think only about today and tomorrow.**
- **One person man He thinks about the future, right through to eternity.** When he builds, he builds for long term. He knows that

one day, a storm will come. He wants to make sure that his house will not be swept away. And therefore.

- **He dug until he reached the bedrock and built his house on the rock.**
- **The rock does not move. It is unchanging and stable. Rock offers a good foundation for a house.**
- **In the narrative the house...represents a disciple's whole life...His House. This disciple knows also that building upon the rock takes time, commitment, and energy. Building on the rock is hard and time consuming.**
- **But it is a price worth paying for as he/she wants to make sure that their house will not be swept away, by the storms that will surely come.**

*****Digging down deep: means making continual contact with Jesus no matter the weather I stay connected to him...and sometimes we have to dig deep!!!! No life can be founded upon Christ's teaching unless it is also founded upon faith and trust in Him. And for this, we must dig deep.**

- **Then Jesus gives the contrast... Another person calling himself a disciple only expects good weather, maybe some clouds, a little wind, or some light rains.., So they build on sand for it is quick and easy so any soil will do, really, I just want I want to go out and play...**
- **This person has no vision concerning the future. ...So when the storm comes, Or even worse a tornado or hurricane or flood comes... a storm they never thought would hit their house... and they run to the house for shelter...there is none. For the storms wear away the sandy foundation of their house. For it was only built for good weather!**

- **That will be their ruin!! Complete devastation of the house...their life**
One last point...

6:47 I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. ^{Luke 48} It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built.

- **Two details of importance, digging deep and stand firm both are actions of the disciple!**
- **Digging deep speaks of digging through topsoil before laying a foundation on the rock ...**The digging was through all the regular stuff of life...and removing the earthly stuff that gets in the way of hitting bedrock, not letting it stop you from finding the Rock.
- **For it must be removed** before the great storms come... not during the storm... Rock builders hear His Word and they conform their lives to it.
- ***The second is stand firm...Storms are gnarly...scary***
- The storm shows forth what parts of the house was built on rock and what is not...there can be damage but the house stood! The rock does not move. It is unchanging and stable. You must adjust...
- **That discomfort that you are feeling in the storm, is a sign that it is time to level up. Trust the Rock, believe in the foundation...and set your posture...** what we build our life upon we will stand up on so therefore we can **LEAN INTO THE STORM!!**

end

Paul says it this way

NLT Col 2:⁶ *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

- *Paul talks about being ‘rooted and built up’ in Christ Jesus. But what exactly does that mean? Let’s walk as Christians, whose roots are deep in Christ, so that no adversity can uproot us or blow us over.*
- Trees are rooted, We are rooted if our roots are sunk down in solid, nourishing soil.
- Strengthened *in the faith*. Faith is our connection to the root. God roots us. God establishes us in Christ through our faith.

How will we root deeper? Walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in faith, just as you were taught abounding in thanksgiving.

Paul mixes his metaphors? Trees are rooted. Buildings are built up. **This will result in surviving storms and bear fruit...and building standing through and after the storms ...to provide shelter and comfort**

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- He dug until he reached the bedrock and built his house on the rock. The rock does not move. It is unchanging and stable. Rock offers a good foundation for a house. Rock builders hear His Word and they conform their lives to it. ***the bedrock you have to make adjustments the rock does not...adjust ...***
- So You build on sand for it is quick and easy. Building on the rock is hard and time consuming.
- Rock builders hear His Word and they conform their lives to it.
- We are building something that will last a long time and we must take the time to count the cost. And this is also the meaning of the Lord's teaching here.
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- Another person calling himself a disciple only thinks about the present. He has no vision concerning the future. He just wants to build his house quickly and enjoy it now.
- What happens today is all that counts. And if you are building just for a short time, why waste the energy and pay the cost of building your house on a foundation. Just build it anywhere you want. Just build it on the sand. ‘But what is going to happen if there is a storm? Well, it won’t happen. Just enjoy your house while you have it.’ This will be his ruin. He knows that during a storm, the floods will wear away the sandy foundation of his house. He knows that he should build it on the rock. He hears God’s word, but he deliberately ignores the instructions and the warnings.

One person man He thinks about the future, right through to eternity. When he builds, he builds for long term. And therefore, he builds his house on the rock. He knows that one day, a storm will come. He wants to make sure that his house will not be swept away. He hears God’s word, and he acts upon it. But the wise man knows also that building upon the rock takes time, commitment, and energy. We see here the difference between the easy road, and the hard and costly road. Building on the sand is quick and easy. Building on the rock is hard and time consuming.

Digging down deep: making contact with Jesus

No life can be founded upon Christ’s teaching unless it is also founded upon faith and trust in His personality. And for this, we must dig deep. This notion of digging through topsoil before laying a foundation on the rock appears in the parallel passage of the gospel of

Luke. This detail has its importance, as we shall see. I think it is worthwhile to read Luke's account of Jesus' parable. Observe especially the actions of the builders.

He dug until he reached the bedrock and built his house on the rock. The rock does not move. It is unchanging and stable. Rock offers a good foundation for a house. Rock builders hear His Word and they conform their lives to it. *the bedrock you have to make adjustments the rock does not...adjust ...* **One Man Built His House On The Rock** - The word "*rock*" refers to "*a large outcropping of rock; the bedrock.*" While one man built his house on the sand, the other dug deep. He dug until he reached the bedrock and built his house on the rock. The rock does not move. It is unchanging and stable. Rock offers a good foundation for a house. Rock builders hear His Word and they conform their lives to it. *That discomfort that you are feeling in the storm, it a sign that it is time to grow. To level up. To shift toward something bigger. Lean in to it!*

end

Words self talk...can prevent us from becoming the best we might be, and we often use them as weapons against ourselves and each other. and some of us are horrible company to our selves

...that is why some of us don't like to be alone...were not good company...that is why some of us are uncomfortable in our own skin...we have a dangerous thought life...

- But the opposite is true as well **And You know some of us are good company to our selves ..**

- Self talk can be healing; it can transform us, give us strength and courage. There is definitely power in words.

PR 18: 21 The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

Words start out as air seeds... All words, whether they are true or not, have the potential to lodge in our ears and go down to our hearts and grow, just as seeds have the potential to lodge and grow in the earth the produce fruit

Reckless self talk has reaked destruction in our lives...and can in others but Can be transformed into self talk that heals our lives and other talk that blesses

PR 12:18 Reckless words pierce like a sword,

Words have the power to pierce our hearts...when we pierce one another we diminish ourselves

*******But we can overcome destructive words... How We must get wise!!**

PR 12:18but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

PR 16:23 A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.

So how do I get wise in my self talk? Well...The opposite of wise is foolish...don't be that

Pro 18:7 The mouths of fools are their ruin; they trap themselves with their lips.

And Jesus gives nother contrast...

Become Wise.. **Proverbs 1:7** *Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

and no where is wisdom or foolishness displayed

Prov 1: 23 Come and listen to my counsel. I'll share my heart with you and make you wise.

Proverbs 15:33 *Fear of the LORD teaches wisdom*

PR 16:23 A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.

Prov 3:1 My child,^[a] never forget the things I have taught you. store my commands in your heart. ² If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying.

PR 16:23 A wise man's heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.

If your Heart is not controlled by God...Rest assured your speech is not either...and neither is your life...

Intro: The Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy is going to fall. Scientists travel to the town of Pisa every year to measure the building's slow descent. They report that the 179-foot tower, which was built in 1173, moves about one-twentieth of an inch a year, and is now 17 feet out of plumb. Recent renovations may have saved the 810-year old tower and prevent it from

collapsing. Quite significantly, the word “*pisa*” means “*marshy land,*” which gives some clue as to why the tower began to lean even before it was completed. Also, another issue is the fact that its foundation is only 10 feet deep! The reason the Leaning Tower of Pisa is leaning is because it is built on a faulty foundation.

The difference will be revealed only when a storm comes. During the rainy season in Palestine, storms with sweeping floods can suddenly hit the villages. The house built on the rock will stand firm whereas the house built on the sand will be destroyed.

What is this rock? Paul points out in 1 Corinthians 3:11 that this rock, this foundation, is Christ. *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* This foundation, the person, the blood and the righteousness of Christ, is firm and strong. You can rely on it. You can be sure that it will never give way. **If you build your life on Christ, your life will stand safe and sure. You will be saved. What does it mean to build on Christ? It means that you live a life of total dependence on Christ. Just as a house rests on a foundation, your life rests on Christ. And you cannot really make Him the foundation of your life unless you also obey His teaching.**

So it is important to understand that the contrast in the parable of the two foundations is not between Christians and non-Christians, but between professing Christians whose house is built on sand and professing Christians whose house is built upon the rock. So both come to church. They listen to Christian messages. **They read their Bible. You can't tell the difference because the deep foundations of their lives are hidden. So the real issue to consider here is not whether they hear the truth and they know the truth, but whether they do what they hear.** This is what is going to determine our destiny for eternity.

Only a storm will differentiate between a true disciple and a false one. The storm symbolizes the pressures of life like sickness, failures, losses, etc. The true nature of a Christian is revealed in moments of crisis. They show what manner of person we are. When the trials of this life come, the foundation of one's life will be uncovered. If it doesn't happen in this life, it will certainly be revealed by the storm of the day of judgment. In the OT, the storm is used as a symbol for God's judgment, especially His final judgment. On that day, only those whose life was built on Jesus Christ will withstand the ultimate test of God's judgment.

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Then he gives the second sign.... Paul mixes his metaphors? Trees are rooted.

...well it starts by asking this question? **“Am I becoming more like Jesus by doing this? if not then I surrender it to his will... ????”**

You see...

- In a worried world the follower of Jesus should stand out as calm
- In a greedy world the follower of Jesus stands out as generous
- In a depressed world the follower of Jesus should be the light of hope
- In a fearful world the follower of Jesus should stand out as fearless
- In an unstable world the follower of Jesus should stand out as a model of stability and steadfastness in the midst of change
- In a selfish world the follower of Jesus increasingly lives selfless life
- In a world filled with pain, follower of Jesus should stand out for their compassion a healing balm
- In a world filled with confusion, the follower of Jesus increasingly lives by conviction with understanding...
- in an out of control world the follower of Jesus increasingly lives under self control..
- In a world filled with immorality and corruption... we should stand out as people of integrity and honesty
- In a world filled with hate...we should stand out for our love..

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This will result in surviving storms and keep on standing

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Building for long term

Being a carpenter, Jesus knew about trees and the power of their roots and how to build houses. He knows that when we build a house, we cannot think only about today and tomorrow. We are building something that will last a long time and we must take the time to count the cost. And this is also the meaning of the Lord's teaching here.

The foolish man is the person who only thinks about the present. He has no vision concerning the future. He just wants to build his house quickly and enjoy it now. What happens today is all that counts. And if you are building just for a short time, why waste the energy and pay the cost of building your house on a foundation. Just build it anywhere you want. Just build it on the sand. 'But what is going to happen if there is a storm? Well, it won't happen. Just enjoy your house while you have it.' This is his foolishness. He knows that during a storm, the floods will wear away the sandy foundation of his house. He knows that he should build it on the rock. He hears God's word, but he deliberately ignores the instructions and the warnings.

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Luke 6:46. " But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?

47 "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:

48 "He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

49 "But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

Did you notice what the wise man was doing? He was looking for a rock on which he was going to build his house. He had to spend a lot of energy digging. So he dug and dug until one day, he hit something hard below. He knew that it was a rock. At first, he cleared the little patch on the rock. Then he continued digging. Gradually he saw more and more of the rock. He continued to dig until he could start building his house on that rock.

Do you get the picture? The action of digging down simply means to do whatever Jesus tells you to do. An important spiritual principle emerges here and it is this: *it is in doing His will that you will be able to know Christ, to make contact with Him.*

Think about this parable again. Before you can reach the rock, there is sand and mud. This soil represents the material world that is separating us from the Lord Jesus. But even if you are willing to build on this rock, you don't make instant contact with the rock. You have to take the time to dig deep to get to that rock. Both men wanted to build their house, their life. Both were willing to listen to the word of God. But only one was willing to do what the Lord says. The other one did not want. One was willing to dig; the other one did not want. So the principle is this: those who are willing to dig through that mud, to do God's will, to carry out the teaching of the Lord Jesus, these are the people who will make contact with Him.

But think of the man who is digging down. How does he know there is rock underneath? *In those days, they couldn't rely on any electronic devices. You just don't know how long it is going to take before you can find a rock. In a sense, the*

digging itself is an act of faith, isn't it? You dig with the confidence that you will find rock underneath, that you will make contact with Jesus.

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If you build on sand...it is easily manipulated..you move it and reposition it with ease...

The Lord Jesus concludes His message with a stern warning. In the last sentence of His sermon, Jesus says, *And great was its fall* (Matthew 7:27), the fall of the house built on the sand, the fall of the false Christian of course. This is interesting. In our human thinking, we like to conclude everything on a nice note. Every speaker prefers to close his message with a comforting point that the hearers can take home with them. But here, the Lord Jesus prefers the last sentence of His sermon to be a warning rather than an encouragement.

In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus leaves no room for a neutral position on the matter – either you are planted on the rock or the sand. He is very clear that you will look for a foundation somewhere. We are secured, founded and fastened perfectly by God through a God-dependent heart. The self-dependent heart is not void of these needs for security, protection and peace; in fact, it is very much in search of these things. In other words, there is no neutral point when it comes to security. There are massive worship and idolatry implications at work.

Another thing that Jesus points out in this text is that the same storm hits both houses. I can remember singing a song in Sunday school about the rock, storm and sand. The song sure didn't emphasize the storm hitting the house on the rock, but Jesus says storms will come, and those planted in Him will survive and even thrive. Those planted elsewhere will be destroyed. I would like to think that I am always planted on "the rock." In terms of salvation, I believe this to be the case, and I believe the text is addressing salvation. However, many believers plant their trust in other things besides God, so this parable has implications for sanctification, too.

The question for the Christian then is this: What is exposed in your heart when a storm or trial (suffering) comes? It is in difficult moments that we see our peace being tied to something other than Christ. We see our need for security or protection, but do not go to the Author of peace. So in His grace, He sends a storm to expose misplaced affections and allegiances.

Jesus uses the picture of a house in a storm to show that He alone brings salvation. Our hearts long for and desperately need this salvation. In the Lord's grace, He uses storms to reveal our deep need for Him and where we have planted our hopes. So rather than weathering the storm, would not it be better to prayerfully consider what is being revealed because of the storm?

Lesson in the parable

Jesus was illustrating that we can live wisely or foolishly. It depends on where we lay our foundation. He said that if we pay attention to what He said and follow Him, we will be like the wise builder. We will come through the *inevitable storms of life*—the trials and difficulties that are part of life—because His teachings are rock-solid principles about how to live successfully.

Yes, it does require hard work to do these things, but it will pay off in the long run. In other words, Jesus said that His sayings are the best place to build. They provide a solid foundation for our lives, our families, our friendships, our associations and our future.

Few people grasp the importance of the foundation Jesus described in the Sermon on the Mount. But some of Jesus' listeners heard and thought about what He said, and they "were astonished at His teaching" (Matthew 7:28).

To the degree they were able, His disciples endeavored to follow how He lived. They tried to put His sayings into practice as a way of life. They did the hard work and passed on what they learned to others.

What they proved by practice is this: There's only one sure foundation for living an abundant life and that is Jesus Christ. That foundation includes His life, death, resurrection and instructions for us. "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Our starting place

Where is our starting place? We should study what Jesus taught about life and apply His teachings to how we live our lives.

Reading the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John gives us a sense of how Jesus lived. He based His teachings on the laws and principles revealed in the Scriptures. Reading the entire Bible, including both the Old and New Testaments, deepens our understanding of how God thinks and explains even more the message Jesus taught while He was on earth.

The apostle Paul said that the Bible is "given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16).

In other words, the Scriptures are a powerful foundation for living wisely and abundantly, weathering the *inevitable storms of life* and moving forward.

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[Psalm 127:1](#) says, “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.”

This verse reveals the key to success in any endeavor and God’s absolute sovereignty over every person and event. In any activity, we need God’s blessing. All that we accomplish in life will be for naught if the Lord is not in it. We can “build,” and we can “watch,” but it is the Lord who gives success.

The clause *unless the Lord builds the house* does not imply that the Lord has a hammer and nails and actually performs construction work. Rather, it speaks metaphorically of the Lord’s direct involvement in our lives. The Hebrew word for “house” in [Psalm 127:1](#) appears nearly a thousand times in the Bible. It is used literally to refer to temples, palaces, and homes, and figuratively to refer to households and families—all of which are important structures in a person’s life. The word represents not only a primary dwelling place but also one’s sense of self-identity, security, and place in this world. We cannot reasonably hope to have a fulfilling, truly successful life without our heavenly Father’s help, guidance, and protection over our “house.”

No matter how skilled or diligent the workers are, “the work of the builders is wasted” (NLT) unless the Lord builds the house. He is the master carpenter of our lives. He is the source of wisdom, which is the most valuable building material: “By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures” ([Proverbs 23:3–4](#)).

Here’s some of what else the Bible says about God’s sovereignty in building the “house” of our lives: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight” ([Proverbs 3:5–6](#)). “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails” ([Proverbs 19:21](#)).

David revealed that “all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be” ([Psalm 139:16](#)). The Lord told Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations” ([Jeremiah 1:5](#)). His plan for us is just as certain, written from eternity: “For He chose us in [Christ] before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will” ([Ephesians 1:4–5](#)).

So the Lord has a plan for us, and we have the responsibility to cooperate in that plan. The builders of the “house” in [Psalm 127:1](#) do not stop working, but they do recognize that they need God’s direction and blessing in their work. That is to say, we labor, but we remember that, unless the Lord builds the house, our labor is in vain.

Jesus used a similar metaphor in His [Sermon on the Mount](#), where He warned that “everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash" ([Matthew 7:26–27](#)). The foolish man labored on his house, but he foolishly left the Lord out of the process.

The rich fool in Jesus' [parable](#) had attained all types of worldly accomplishments, but at the pinnacle of his success God required of him his life. "Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" God asks him ([Luke 12:20](#)). The rich man in [Luke 16](#) was likewise quite successful, but he dies in verse 22; in the next verse, he is in Hades in torment. "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain."

Trying to accomplish anything without God's blessing, apart from His wisdom, is foolish. It leads to futility in the end and to the lament of [Ecclesiastes 1:2](#): "Everything is meaningless."

[Psalm 127:1](#), with its condition that the Lord builds the house, contains both a warning and a promise. If you want success, align your personal plans with God's plan for your life; when that happens, ultimate failure becomes impossible, and [ultimate success](#) is guaranteed.

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➤ The statement Isaiah makes is true ...following Jesus is like this...

ISA 28:10 For it is: Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule; a little here, a little there."

The Christian life is relationship like any other relationship, it is not static, we are growing closer to God or we are growing more distant from the Lord. Though His presence and the Holy Spirit are always with us we can feel distant from him. Our choices and negative or sinful experiences can cause us to feel alienated from God. The truth is they can actually be the motivation to drive us deeper in our willingness to obey. And like any relationship which deepens over time becomes dependent on receiving His truth, through reading his word and being rooted in its instruction.

- Do and do...actions built upon other actions....
- Rule on rule, rule on rule....structure with understanding...rules are based on something
- A little here a little there...a piece at a time...given through time and circumstances and geography...