

CHARACTERISTIC ONE: FAITH

Lesson 1: Our Foundation of Faith

What is Faith?

Faith is double faceted. It's like a coin that has two sides.

There is firstly our faith, meaning the foundation of what we believe. Like when someone asks the question, "What is your faith?" And we respond by saying, "I'm a Christian." It's the basis or foundation on which all our other beliefs and values are established and that we endeavor by the power of the Holy Spirit to follow.

Secondly, faith is trusting & believing God for an answer to prayer without seeing the evidence of it. It's a belief and hope that God will come through in a situation, even when it seems impossible. The writer of Hebrews defines this aspect of faith in Hebrews Ch. 11 when he says in verses 1-3:

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

² For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.¹

In this Lesson we will focus on the first aspect of Faith- our Foundation of Faith.

The construction of every building, whether a home or a skyscraper starts with the foundation. Why? Because it's the most important step and without a solid foundation, the weight of the building itself will cause it to be unstable and eventually crumble to the ground. The same is true in our lives. Our faith must be built on Jesus and His words, they alone are that rock solid foundation. Jesus himself explains this in Matthew 7:24-27 when He says:

²⁴ "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

²⁶ "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: ²⁷ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."²

In this parable, Jesus talks about two men, one wise and one foolish. As we look at these two men what was the difference? Jesus explains that they both heard the same words that He spoke, they both had the same opportunity to build in the right place, the only difference was one chose to obey His words while the other didn't. Jesus said the only distinction between a wise man who builds his house on a solid rock foundation

and a foolish man who builds on a weak sandy foundation is whether they choose to not only hear His words but also obey them. Jesus gives every one of us the same opportunity to build the house of our lives on rock or sand, it all depends on your choices to obey His words or not. The question is, are you building your life on Jesus?

Your foundation of faith to follow Christ is not just in the moment of salvation, which is a completely free gift, but also in the decisions you make to follow Him every day. The foundation of a home is not just made up of a footer but also the blocks that are laid down individually and cemented together. In the same way, we lay the blocks to the foundation of our faith by the daily choices we make to obey God's Word and put Christ first in all our decisions. It's also essential to remember that even though we may have laid a good foundation, we must periodically check it. For just like in the natural a home settles and may show through in cracks in the walls, sometimes we can allow our spiritual foundation to become settled (comfortable), and cracks begin to appear in the walls of our life. Therefore, it's important to consistently reexamine our lives to ensure we are continuing to build it on Jesus alone and His Word.

So, if it's critical to build our lives on the right foundation, which Jesus says is obeying His words, how can we do that if we don't know His words? Simply put, we can't. This is why having a daily quiet time with the Lord is vital to our spiritual growth. You may be unfamiliar with the term "quiet time" but let me explain. A daily quiet time with the Lord is a preset, intentional time every day that you get away from any distractions to a quiet place that you have fellowship with the Father in prayer, meditation and reading the Bible. The whole purpose is to help you grow more intimate in your relationship with God and to help you grow spiritually.

I can tell you from personal experience, that my relationship with the Lord and my knowledge and understanding of His word grew tremendously when I implemented this practice in my life soon after I gave my heart to the Lord at 19 years old. For me, I started out with 10-15 minutes of quiet time, but it soon grew to over 30 minutes and now it is not uncommon for me to spend an hour or two in quiet time with the Lord. I count it as the most important part of my daily routine and I believe you will too, if you implement this fundamental discipline in your daily life.

Lesson 1 Questions

1. What does it mean to have a Foundation of Faith in your life?

2. What did Jesus say was the only difference between the wise man and the foolish man in Matthew 7:24-27?

3. We have all made bad choices in life, even after becoming a Christian, however God is in the business of fixing messed up “blocks” in our lives. What is a “block” in your life that you need the Lord to help you repair?

4. Why is it important to have your own daily Quiet Time with the Lord? What are some practical ways to implement this practice into your daily life?

¹ [The New King James Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Heb 11:1–3.

² [The New King James Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Mt 7:24–27.