

The Treasure of a Good Foundation

“Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.” (1 Tim 6:18-19)

If we don't clearly see the kingdom we will fall away.

There are two kinds of foundations (Mt 7:24-27). If your foundation is not built upon the rock, you will fall. The great deception will come to you (Mt 24:10-13). You build upon the rock by putting into practice the light you receive.

Lk 21:36 — If you are not learning to stand now, everything you are learning is only knowledge, building upon the wrong foundation. We are capable of obeying. We want to learn now to do it so that on that day we will be able to stand firm.

Yielding to self-pity, depression, and rebellion is a waste of sorrow. To be “bummed out” is completely selfish. We must remember that it's through suffering that we have entry into the kingdom. We must have a will to suffer.

Nothing that can come to us from any source can hurt us unless it causes us to have a bad attitude. It's a person's response that is the blessing or the curse. His reactions show forth the condition of his heart.

2 Tim 2:12 — If we endure with Him we will also reign with Him. So we must disregard our own interest. We must reject our besetting sins. We must *really* deny self. We must resist the accuser in order to endure with Him. In order to not deny Him, we must deny ourselves. This must be a thorough work in our spirit. The flesh must be dealt with.

The Kingdom of God — how shall we not become dull to such a crucial thing?

Mt 7:21 — Whenever you talk about the Kingdom of God you talk about the responsibility of obeying God and disobeying Satan.

God has a standard (Mt 5-7). We must live by that standard, that life. The whole basis of our life as disciples depends on seeing and hearing from God. He speaks and we follow. If we want to hear from God we must be willing to pay the price.

If we are going to pray for anything we should pray for God to speak to us. If God does not speak to us, we will die. If we cannot hear Him speaking, we are not alive. If we were listening to Him we might hear Him say that we need to get the beam out of our own eye. Many of us still have a beam in our eye (Mt 7:3-5).

Our Father wants to show us how to care for one another, how to *restore* our brother with true humility (Gal 6:1-5).

If there is judgment without tears, then there is manifestly no knowledge of love. If there is condemnation without distress, then there is no understanding of love (2 Cor 11:29).

Let us be careful that we not do things against love. Do not offend a brother. Whenever correction is brought it should be done in such gentleness that it would not offend.

1 Jn 4:17-18 — By our true expression of love fear must leave. But do not let love leave you because of wounds received (an offended heart). If we love, we fear not. With love in us we have boldness on the day of judgement. By truly living a life of love, fear will be totally cast out.

By loving our brothers our love for God is made perfect. A lack of love shows a lack of faith. A lack of faith exhibits pride.

You can gauge your spirituality by how submissive you are to your brothers. Because we love our brothers today and harbor no fear toward them, we shall one day stand before our Master without fear.

The life God has given us is a life of love. Love is positive. We must learn not to offend love. Many of us “love” the *right thing* but risk offending love. Our attitude is too hard. We have grown excessive in righteousness but deficient in love. It would be better to do something wrong out of a good heart (submissive heart) than to do everything right out of a bad heart (resistant heart). A legalistic mind causes divisions — being right on all the minors but missing the spirit and therefore dividing from the Body. We must learn to obey God without sinning against love under any circumstance. We have to be righteous, but we must never go against love.

*“Now as to the love of the brethren you have no need to be written to, for you yourselves are taught by God to **love one another.**”* (1 Ths 4:9)

A person looking to *be loved* places an impossible burden upon others, for a person like that can never be pleased or satisfied. If one demands to be loved and is never taught by God to love, he will finally be rejected, not being an equal recipient of God's grace — being discarded like a dried-up branch because his own selfish desire has deceived him and he has borne no fruit.

Our job and responsibility is to *love*, and not even to seek love *in return*, or we still place and impossible demand upon others. The grace for them to *repay* our love will be lacking due to our own selfish desire.

How do we know love? What is its nature? How are we called to love? As our Master died on the cross — we are to be of this nature.

One who walks this narrow way makes it his aim to neither give nor receive any offense. To such a one self-pity or depression is a waste of time — for an overcomer it is always so.

A person who waits to be loved, patting the floor with his foot, will have a long wait. For some it will be a thousand years.

When we think certain ones aren't loving us or paying enough respect or attention to us, this is not the spirit of our Master. On the contrary, it is the spirit of the evil one. We not only set ourselves up as judges but as the pre-eminent one in the universe, looking for the attention from others that we ought to be giving to our Sovereign.

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgement.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgement.” (Mt 5:21-22)

One of the signs of anger is self-pity and hurt feelings (because of craving attention and not getting it as much as you think you ought to).

You become angry and seek to punish those who are withholding affection from you by making them feel they have hurt you in some way. You sulk and pout and become resentful. This leads to another sin — *withdrawal*. Beware of this worthless spirit of Belial. Inferiority and superiority are both abominations to God because they stem from pride. We can't bring this sour disposition to the communion table or we will die. When you find yourself getting into this trap

it's time to take immediate action. The worst thing you can do in this situation is to attempt to avoid the issue altogether by crying on God's shoulder (prayer without thanksgiving). For your benefit, because God loves you, He will not listen to you — your heart is condemning you. It is time you obey our Sovereign if you really love Him. He wants you to stop thinking you have grounds for being mad and justifying your behavior and conduct. This is where, by God's grace, you take the initiative and get things put right. Your offerings and whole life will be a joyous thing again and you won't be so bothered by high blood pressure and stomach ulcers or any sickness related to your sour attitudes and disposition.

You will be amazed how much you and God get along. Your offering as well as your whole life will be a joy again. We can't shine God on. Many times we put off repenting and just get better. We think God forgot, but our hearts have just grown dull. We must keep a good conscience or we will be weighed down to the point we can't even have fellowship with our Master.

Let's not have wasted sorrow. Depression and self-pity are a waste of time.