

Foundations: Serving Others

5-Day Devotional

Day 1: The Foundation That Never Fails

Reading

Matthew 7:24-27 Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But 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.

Devotional

Jesus invites us to build our lives on the solid rock of His teachings rather than the shifting sands of worldly wisdom. When storms come—and they will—only those anchored to Christ will stand firm. Consider today: what foundation are you building on? Are you using your eyes to choose what seems secure, or your heart to trust what is eternal? As Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians, we must fix our eyes "not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." Your eternal foundation is being built right now, today. Choose Christ as your solid rock, and everything else you build will have the strength to withstand life's fiercest storms.

Day 2: The Wall of Love

Reading

1 John 4:7-21 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to

be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Devotional

Love isn't just a feeling; it's the first essential wall we build on Christ's foundation. John makes it clear: "We love because he first loved us." This divine love transforms us from bitter, self-focused people into reflections of God's heart. Like Jonah, we can care more about our comfort than people's lives, but God calls us higher. You cannot love Jesus and treat people like garbage—these simply don't go together. Today, examine your heart: Are you standing on the solid rock, or has bitterness caused you to slip onto squishy ground? God's love isn't just for those who deserve it; it's for everyone. When you build the wall of love first, everything else in your spiritual house falls into proper place.

Day 3: The Wall of Service

Reading

Matthew 6:1-4 Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Devotional

Jesus doesn't say "if" you serve—He says "when." Service is the natural overflow of a heart grounded in Christ's love. But notice His warning: don't announce your acts with trumpets for human recognition. True service asks only one question: "Who is my audience?" Are you serving for applause or for God's approval? When you serve, two lives change—the recipient's and yours. The pizza delivery guy who gave away his tips on Christmas Eve discovered this truth: serving others with no expectation of return brings the deepest joy. The world is hard, so be soft. Be the bridge over troubled waters for someone today. Your Father has a need, and you're here to serve. It's that simple, and that profound.

Day 4: Limiting Revenge, Embracing Mercy

Reading

Exodus 21:22-25 If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely^[a] but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands an the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

Matthew 5:38-42 You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Devotional

"Eye for eye, tooth for tooth"—we've twisted God's limiting principle into permission for revenge. God gave this law to restrain our sinful desire to inflict excessive harm, not to justify retaliation. Yet our broken hearts want to finish what others started. Jesus takes this further, calling us to turn the other cheek and go the extra mile. This doesn't mean accepting abuse; it means refusing to let revenge govern our hearts. When love is lacking, mercy disappears, and we become judge, jury, and executioner. But you cannot build the wall of service without first building the wall of love. Check your foundation today: Are you seeking justice or justification for your anger? God's mercy toward you should overflow into mercy toward others.

Day 5: Be the Bridge

Reading

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

Devotional

God comforts us not just for our sake, but so we can comfort others with the same comfort we've received. You are called to be a bridge over troubled waters—a beacon of peace and hope in a world drowning in chaos. Perhaps you feel your own foundation cracking, your walls of love and service showing fissures. That's when God meets you most powerfully. He lifts you up, heals you, holds you, and forgives you so you can do the same for others. Your struggles aren't wasted; they're preparation for ministry. When you're weary and feeling small, God dries your tears so you can dry another's. The best Christmas that pizza delivery guy ever had wasn't about receiving—it was about giving everything away. When you ease someone's burden, you discover Christ was carrying you all along.

As you complete this devotional journey, remember: you're not building for today alone. You're building your eternity, brick by brick, wall by wall, on the solid rock of Jesus Christ. Stand firm, love deeply, and serve faithfully.