



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is a physical example and literal reminder of what happens when something is built without a proper foundation. The one hundred and seventy-nine-foot-tall bell tower was built in Pisa, Italy and is made of solid marble. The ground beneath the tower was not solid enough to support the weight of the tower, and it began to sink on one side. Now the tower leans more than seventeen feet off center. The walls are straight, but the whole building leans. The problem is with the foundation – if the foundation was firm and in line; the walls would be in line as well. Now, even if someone took a huge crane and pulled the walls to plumb again, the problem would return just as soon as the tower was set free from the crane. Without a solid foundation, the tower would sink and be crooked again.

In a similar way, a person's spiritual life must have its foundation in a loving and abiding relationship with God. If one's life is not properly established upon the solid foundation of a supreme and genuine love for God, it will not be able to withstand the storms and torrents of this world. A capricious or duplicitous faith in God is often exposed during times of personal suffering and trials. In a very real sense, hardships and pain do not cripple or destroy a person's faith in God but simply expose the weak or shallow foundation of one's faith in God. Trials are the very crucible in which faith is either revealed as genuine and/or strong, or insincere and/or weak (cf. Jms.1:2-4; 1Pet.1:7).

The Biblical story of Job's suffering is legendary. In many ways, Job has become the "poster-boy" for all Christian suffering. After hearing of the devastation to his property, possessions and livelihood, and the death of all his children, Scripture records for us that Job, *"fell to the ground in worship and said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.' In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing"* (1:20-22). In the midst of severe pain and loss, Job worshipped the Lord! In his suffering, Job's faith was not destroyed but displayed.

So, the question is, "How does a Christian develop a strong and deep foundation in God?" That is, how can we as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ ensure that our faith will withstand the storms of life? Fortunately, Jesus Himself gives us the answer: *"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The 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. ²⁶But 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. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash"* (Matt 7:24-27).

When asked, "What is the 'rock' in this passage?" many people all-too-quickly say, "Jesus!" While Jesus is surely the rock of our salvation (Ps.95:1; 1Cor.10:4), in this passage the rock is *"everyone who hears [Christ's] words and puts them into practice"* (Matt.7:24). A strong foundation of faith comes from first digging down deep into the study of God's Word and then practicing that truth in our lives through daily Christian obedience. Hearing (or reading) God's Word is not enough. Trust is not mere intellectual assent to Biblical facts. It involves a sincere submission to the will of Christ. The basis, or foundation, of our faith is trusting in the character and promises of God revealed in His Word – not in our outward or earthly circumstances.

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(12/1/25)

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #48):

Deuteronomy 20-22; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalm 137-139; Ecclesiastes 11-12; Malachi; Acts 19-20; 1 John 1-3

Recommended Reading:

"Taking God at His Word" by Kevin DeYoung