



Dgroup Discussion Guide for August 18, 2019 Legit Foundation

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-27

What is a foundation? It is the basis of an edifice, that part of the building which lies on the ground, usually a wall of stone which supports the edifice. It is also the basis or ground work, or anything that on which any thing stands, and by which it is supported. What we need to remember about foundations though is that:

1. It takes a long time to complete
2. It is not visible to the human eye
3. It needs to be deep and strong enough to sustain the whole building
4. It should stand the test of time and the forces of nature

Matthew 7:24 says **Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.** Jesus said this at the end of His Sermon on the Mount where He gave us the Beattitudes. But if you notice in the verse the conjunction AND was used. So it is not enough that we simply HEAR God's Word it is also imperative that we ACT on them.

The verse continues (v 25 - 27) **and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell – and great was its fall.**

The house is likened to our spiritual lives. If our faith is built on rock then we should have a strong foundation. If our house is built on sand, then it will be destroyed as soon as the tide comes in. Below is a table to show the difference of faith built on rock vs faith built on sand.

SAND	ROCK
House built on sand when hit by storms => DESTROYED	House built on rock when hit by storms => REMAINED
Hears the Word of God but DID NOT OBEY => fool, shipwrecked	Hears the Word of God and OBEYS => Wise, experiences Joy even in the midst of storms

If we do not have a Legit Foundation, how then can we follow James 1:2-4 which says **Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.** This may sound absurd but if we have a strong foundation, then there is nothing to fear because we know that when storms come, when these trials comes (v 3-4) **knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.**

If we have the wrong foundation, when trails and the storms of life come we will run away in fear and even blame God. We have been assured in John 16:33 **I have told you all this so that you may have peace in Me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.** The assurance is not that we will not undergo problems, in fact we are told that these will not go away. But the assurance that Jesus gives us is that inspite of and despite of these trials He has overcome the world.

How then do we build the right foundation? James 1:22-24 says **But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.**

Edmund Chan said that *knowing the truth does not change lives. It is TRUTH APPLIED that changes lives.* We can have a bible, read the bible but if we do not apply it then we are just accumulating information. It is in the READING and the APPLYING the truths in the Bible that changes lives.

James 1:25 further says ***but if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.***

Where then do we build our foundation? 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 says ***According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*** Our basis, our legit foundation should be on Jesus Christ.

What are we investing our life on? Are we investing them in things of this world? (v 12 – 13). At the end we will be tested by fire to test the quality of our work. 1 Cor 3 continues to say ***if any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.***

Can we fortify our foundation on our own? Ephesians 2:21-22 says ***in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*** And Hebrews 10:24-25 says ***and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*** Although it may be possible to work on building our foundation on our own, the bible tells us that we become stronger when we grow with a community of believers. And this is why we constantly remind each other of Matthew 28: 18-20 which urges us to make disciples and teach each other to OBEY ALL.

When we have a strong foundation, with Jesus Christ as our cornerstone (Eph 2;19-20) then we will have the God of Peace and experience the peace of God vividly in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is the basis of my faith?
2. Can I honestly say that I have a firm or strong foundation?
3. What are the things I am doing in order to make my foundation stronger?
 - a. Do I read and obey God's Word?
 - b. Do I attend a dgroup?
 - c. Do I join in fellowship with my church?