

Spiritual Growth

Super Saturday Jesus Rally October 8th, 2016

The importance of fundamentals, growth and unity in the Church.

We are called to make disciples, not converts. We cannot assume discipleship. Discipleship doesn't happen by accident. It's a proactive, intentional way of living.

Fundamentals are all about building the foundation of our faith.

Divisions in the Church

1 Corinthians 1

10 I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters,^[c] by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. **11** For some members of Chloe's household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. **12** Some of you are saying, "I am a follower of Paul." Others are saying, "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Peter,^[d]" or "I follow only Christ."

13 Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not! **14** I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, **15** for now no one can say they were baptized in my name.

1 Cor. 3: 10-15

10 Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. **11** For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.

12 Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. **13** But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. **14** If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. **15** But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

Psalm 127: 1-2

1 Unless the Lord builds a house,
the work of the builders is wasted.
Unless the Lord protects a city,
guarding it with sentries will do no good.
2 It is useless for you to work so hard
from early morning until late at night,
anxiously working for food to eat;
for God gives rest to his loved ones.

What does the Lord have to say Himself about building a foundation?

Matt. 7: 24-27

24 "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. **25** Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. **26** But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. **27** When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

A call for maturity

Hebrews 6: So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds^[a] and placing our faith in God. **2** You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. **3** And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.

Psalms 1

1 Oh, the joys of those who do not
follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand around with sinners,
or join in with mockers.
2 But they delight in the law of the Lord,
meditating on it day and night.
3 They are like trees planted along the riverbank,
bearing fruit each season.
Their leaves never wither,
and they prosper in all they do.
4 But not the wicked!
They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.
5 They will be condemned at the time of judgment.
Sinners will have no place among the godly.
6 For the Lord watches over the path of the godly,
but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

Mark 4: 3 "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. **4** As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. **5** Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. **6** But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died. **7** Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. **8** Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" **9** Then he said, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

Explained: 14 The farmer plants seed by taking God's word to others. **15** The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. **16** The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately

receive it with joy. **17** But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. **18** The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, **19** but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. **20** And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

John 15 "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. ³ You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

⁵ "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷ But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! ⁸ When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

What Fruit?

Galatians 5: 22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

John 4: 23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. **24** For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."

John 6: 47 "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ Yes, I am the bread of life! ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, but they all died. ⁵⁰ Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh."

Water-wine-blood-spirit-prayer

Bread-bread-flesh-truth-God's Word

So how do we live to build this foundation?

The disciples dropped their nets to become fishers of men and so should we.

Matthew 4: 18 One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. **19** Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" **20** And they left their nets at once and followed him.

21 A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. **22** They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind.

Mark 2: 13 Then Jesus went out to the lakeshore again and taught the crowds that were coming to him. **14** As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him.

Luke 9: 23 Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

Galatians 2: 20 My old self has been crucified with Christ.[a] It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 12: And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.[b] **2** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

2 Peter 1: Growing in Faith

3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.

8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.

10 So, dear brothers and sisters,^[a] work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. 11 Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Practical Application

Read, Pray, Share (your lives) Fellowship (**Repeat**)

This is what the Bible Team is all about.