

A Foundation For Life, That You Can Build Upon

Hope Needs a Foundation

A little over a month before he died, the famous atheist Jean-Paul Sartre declared that he so strongly resisted feelings of despair that he would say to himself, "I know I shall die in hope." Then in profound sadness, he would add, "But hope needs a foundation."

Luke 6:47-48

47 I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them.

48 That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built; founded upon the rock.

Earthquake-Proof Hotel The great architect Frank Lloyd Wright was given the challenge of building the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, one of the most earthquake-prone cities in the world. Wright's investigation showed that a solid foundation could be 'floated' on a sixty-foot layer of soft mud underlying the hotel, which would provide a shock-absorbing but solid support for the immense building. Shortly after the hotel was completed it withstood the worst earthquake in fifty-two years, while lesser buildings fell in ruins around it. *Today in the Word, March, 1989, p. 6*

Strong's Number: 2310 [Browse Lexicon](#)

Original Word	Word Origin
qemevlion	from a derivative of (5087)
Transliterated Word	TDNT Entry
Themelios	3:63,322
Phonetic Spelling	Parts of Speech
them-el'-ee-os	Adjective

Definition

laid down as a foundation, the foundation (of a building, wall, city)

metaph. the foundations, beginnings, first principals

of institution or system of truth

1 Cor 3:9,10

9 For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it.

Isaiah 28:16

16 therefore thus says the Lord God, See, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: 'One who trusts will not panic.'

1 Peter 2:6

6 For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

How does one build on this foundation:

1. Confrontation

Matthew 16:16

16 Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

Jesus confronted him. Pinned him down on the question of His Divinity or Character. Peter hit it right on.

2. Revelation

17 And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.'

Flesh and blood did not reveal this to Peter. It was of divine overshadowing by the presence and influence of God. The Lord grants New Testament believers the same opportunity and instruction through the work of the Holy Spirit.

John 16:13-14

13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

14 He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

3. Acknowledgment

2 Timothy 1:12

12 and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him.

As a believer I can be confident and persuaded in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, and my commitment to Him and acknowledging His effective work at the Cross. Makes all the difference for me from now to eternity. Peter's acknowledging of the truth of who Jesus was. Was not based on a creed, but on a revelation of who He was. It was personal!!

4. Confession

This was an open and personal confession. That continued on the Day of Pentecost, when Peter preached a powerful and personal message of who Jesus was. How he could save them from their sins, and by what method it was attainable.

Comparison Between Peter and Judas

Among the apostles, the one absolutely stunning success was Judas, and the one thoroughly groveling failure was Peter. Judas was a success in the ways that most impress us: he was successful both financially and politically. He cleverly arranged to control the money of the apostolic band; he skillfully manipulated the political forces of the day to accomplish his goal. And Peter was a failure in ways that we most dread: he was impotent in a crisis and socially inept. At the arrest of Jesus he collapsed, a hapless, blustering coward; in the most critical situations of his life with Jesus, the confession on the road to Caesarea Philippi and the vision on the Mount of Transfiguration, he said the most embarrassingly inappropriate things. He was not the companion we would want with us in time of danger, and he was not the kind of person we would feel comfortable with at a social occasion.

Time, of course, has reversed our judgments on the two men. Judas is now a byword for betrayal, and Peter is one of the most honored names in the church and in the world. Judas is a villain; Peter is a saint. Yet the world continues to chase after the successes of Judas, financial wealth and political power, and to defend itself against the failures of Peter, impotence and ineptness.