

FIRM FOUNDATION

Anyone who has seen the movie Twister, knows how important a firm foundation is to surviving during a tornado or large storm. The movie shows what happens to the world around us when a dangerous tornado rips through a community unexpectedly. One of the most dramatic parts of the movie is when the twister is actually tearing through the landscape while the main characters attempt to outrun it. All of a sudden across the screen we see a huge cow fly by, a truck is picked up and thrown, and lastly a house is completely blown off its land and down the road. When the danger is getting close, the two main characters tie themselves onto an iron bar settled deep into concrete and far into the ground. As the world is crashing in around them, these two people make it through the storm. Why did they make it, besides the need for a happy ending to the movie? They survived as the world blew away around them because they were connected to something that had a firm foundation.

Our lives are sometimes like a twister. Everything falls apart at once and our world is blowing around us. How can we make it through these rough and troublesome times in our lives? It all depends on the foundation we have built our life around. While Paul was speaking to the Corinthians, he was explaining that he could not talk to them about mature subjects or how to deal with difficult situations because they were not building as mature Christians. We must realize that in order to overcome the world, we must build our lives on the only foundation that will stand the test of time: Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:1-17

WE MUST BUILD AS MATURE CARPENTERS

The Corinthian believers were not at the proper stage in their Christian lives to hear Paul speak of mature spiritual issues. These believers had accepted the call of Christ on their lives, but had failed to grow in the faith. They had received Christ in their lives, but had not continued to grow and develop their relationship with their Savior. Paul decided he needed to reprimand these believers in their lack of spiritual growth. These believers, despite being Christians for a lengthy period of time, were still babies in the faith. They were not ready to get into the "meat" of being a Christian. Many of us are unfortunately the same way. We accept Christ into our lives and refuse to go from there. We do not study the Word as we should, or spend the time in prayer that we need, and thus we do not mature as Christians. Until we are mature Christians, we are not going to be able to build our lives on the foundational stone of Jesus Christ as we should. We need to constantly be growing closer in our relationship with Jesus and thus, becoming more mature in our faith on a daily basis.

WE MUST BUILD ON THE FOUNDATION ALREADY LAID

As we have discussed before, division constantly threatened the Corinthian church. These believers, being immature in the faith, tried to focus on following a

certain man rather than on following Christ alone. Some believers wanted to follow Paul, while others wanted to follow Apollos. Paul had to help them understand that all of these ministers were simply building on the foundation that Jesus Christ had already laid. Each of these men had a certain purpose that God had created them to do. Each had a different job to do for their Savior in order to build on the foundation set before them. Paul called each of us, "God's co-workers." Each of us has been born with a purpose for our lives. We each have a reason that we were created and a way that we are to build on God's foundation. We cannot get caught up with human expectations and worldly issues by focusing on worldly successes. One of us may plant a seed in someone's heart, another person may water that seed, and finally one will help to bring in the harvest. While all of these people did the job that God wanted them to do, God is the one that gets the credit.

WE MUST BUILD WITH THE CORRECT MATERIALS

Once we are saved, all of us are required to work for the Lord. While no one can take away our salvation, our works will be judged. Some people who claim to be Christians are building on a foundation that is not of Jesus Christ, whether of their own successes or reputation. We must build on the foundation of Jesus Christ and work so that we may bring glory to God. We also must realize, as Paul states in verse 16, that we are God's sanctuary and that the Spirit of God lives within us. That means that wherever we may go in life, we take God with us. Some of us need to change where we take our Savior. Paul goes on to say that if anyone ruins God's sanctuary, that God will ruin him. We need to constantly take inventory as to how we are building and where we are taking our Savior.

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