

# “The Testing and Laying of Our Foundation”

## **Note From The Author**

I have a request before you read this little booklet. I would ask for your prayers and faith to cover all saints everywhere who long to know the Lord deeper in these ways. Personally, I fear that sharing even the slightest bit of scriptures may silently communicate to others that Christ is fully formed in these areas, but it is not so with me. I need the Lord so deeply. In this needy place, in my own lack and weakness, I more fully realize my own need for Christ in the ways that I am sharing. When the Lord exposes faulty foundations, it can either be devastating or a wonderful opportunity for a true increase of the Son within. My prayer is that God's desired end would be reached within each one of us when He deals with us in these ways. With sensitivity and love may we stand together with one heart as the Lord brings us all into the maturity of His Life as one new man. May God's heart and view fill the eyes of our understanding in all these things.

## **Foundations**

Foundations are a huge deal to God, for you cannot “build” a son without one. If the foundation is not good, then everything that is built upon it and done within it has no true substance or stability. If the storm is powerful enough, it will eventually blow the house down. Unless Christ is the consistency that holds the house together and the Life that fills it, our labor is vain for it is coming from the arm of the flesh. We can despise the Lord and curse the storm for making manifest that our foundation was not Christ. Yet, it is the mercy of God to expose faulty construction in our constitution now so that we can press in to be built on the Rock of Christ our Life. God's goal is not to break us down for our destruction, but to expose our wrong foundation so that He can build us in His Son! The following scriptures in Ezekiel testify to this process: “Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace; and one built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar: Say unto them which daub it with untempered mortar, that it shall fall: there shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it. Lo, when the wall is fallen, shall it not be said unto you, Where is the daubing wherewith ye have daubed it? Therefore thus saith the Lord God; I will even rend it with a stormy wind in my fury; and there shall be an overflowing shower in mine anger, and great hailstones in my fury to consume it. So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be discovered” (Ez. 13:10-14).

## **Testing Our Foundation**

Many of our trials may stem from offence with God and confusion concerning our circumstances. We may not understand why God is dealing with us so harshly when we feel that we have been so upright in our own eyes. Yet these very attitudes are a sure sign that our foundation is not laid. If Christ has been revealed in us, then our attitudes should come forth from the living Son within crying out, “Abba Father, even so if it seem good in Thy sight, Thy will be done”, rather than a deep awareness of our own suffering and questioning God with, “Why are you so hard on me?” If the reality that we are dead and our life is hid with Christ has been laid in us, then the responses that come forth in crisis are the attitudes of the Son rather than the complaints of the flesh.

When the very foundation of something has been laid, then you know what holds it all together. Peter knew Jesus was the Christ for the Father revealed that to him (Mat. 16:17). Jesus named this disciple “Peter”, and the definition Jesus gave for this name literally meant that the revelation of Jesus Christ would be the Rock upon which the Church would be built and prevail upon (Mat. 16:18). The government of hell itself would not overcome such a foundation. Yet with all that going for him, Peter’s foundation had not yet been laid and in the next moment he became yielded as a vessel through which Satan could speak to Jesus. Peter had foundational difficulties.

The “eyelids” of the Lord try us to see if our foundation will hold under pressure (Ps. 11:4). God is building something, not for the momentary pleasure of it, but so that the eternal structure of it will hold through hurricane force. When the whirlwind came to Job, his house fell down. God was in that whirlwind speaking to Job about what was really going on, and the first thing He referred to was concerning foundation. Look closely at the Lord’s response to Job out of the whirlwind: “Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof” (Job 38:2-6).

### **Everything That Can Be Shook**

*“And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain” (Heb. 12:27).*

Not many people want their world turned upside down. To be shaken until the foundation is reached and either proven or replaced is not a pleasant experience. Hebrews tells us that God will shake everything that can be shook not only in our earth but in heaven.

Foundation is hugely important to the Lord. It is more important to Him than the continuation of our ministry and the things of the Lord we know up to this point. He

doesn't mind shaking everything to build us up into the true temple that standeth sure in the heavens. His eternal desire is to bring us into the image of His Son and form us after the nature of His Lamb. These things are more important to Him than even the most significant ministry on earth, for this is the eternal ministry His heart. He will allow crushing in our earth to gain us in Himself; sealed, settled and formed in oneness. This is our forever portion that He does not want taken away from us. Even the best relationship, ministry, and personal treasure that is of this temporal life is but a vapor and momentary compared to the eternal weight of Christ's glorious Life in us. That is where God's eye is focused, on the eternal structure that He is building in His Church according to who she is in Christ in resurrection.

God desires to lay the right foundation now for eternity's sake. Suffering loss now to gain Christ in conformity is wisdom. God counted that cost and did not fear allowing many of his saints to go through all kinds of difficult stuff. He knew that Peter would one day manifest that his foundation was built upon the Rock, understanding that all the failure and struggle he went through would help bring him into his true destiny in Christ. We all need to be convinced of the importance of knowing the Lord in this way before we can see the Son properly. Once these things were established in Job through the force of the storm and God's voice in the whirlwind, the revelation of Jesus Christ came swiftly ( Job 38 - 42).

### **Joseph and Foundation**

Joseph had a heavenly vision that was powerfully give by God. Even his own father wouldn't fully discount his dreams for he saw the effect they had on Joseph. Yet having a vision concerning the greatness and centrality of the Son is not enough. Joseph would have continued to go the course of his own natural life if he did not go down into the pit and have the Word revealed in Him. Living and speaking as one who is illuminated to the purpose of God concerning His Son is not enough. This knowledge will not change the stars in their courses. This comprehension will not cause all to be gathered into One. It will not cause what is us to be exchanged for the Son. We may be made aware that such a purpose exists in the heavens of God's heart, but that does not yet cause the light of His life to shine out from our inner darkness. Having a dream or vision from God, or seeing something from the Lord in the scriptures does not constitute as Christ being laid in you foundationally. This is only accomplished through the unveiling of the Son as our Life (Gal. 1:16). When this foundation is truly laid in a person they will begin to respond out from the motivations of the Son who is revealed within. They will be sustained and upheld by the Life they glimpsed or heard about earlier.

The Word that God had given had to be tested in Joseph (Ps. 105:18-19). Not a testing in the sense of whether it was good or not, but in the sense of whether it was life in Joseph or not. This was tested in a dark pit. It was tested in fetters of iron as a slave in a foreign land. This testing could be likened unto God tasting to see if it was Christ yet or still just an illuminated Joseph. God is looking for His Son in us, not in the form of deep knowledge or heavenly dreams. God is testing the very fabric of our being to see if it is

Christ Himself inhabiting and sustaining His temple. He desires to receive the fruit of an increase of His Son in Life.

## **The Revelation of Christ**

Let us consider some of those who have gone before us and the work that God did in them to lay and test them foundationally. God did His deep work in Jonah in the dark womb of the belly of a whale. Jonah was carried down to the very depths (Jon. 2:5-6). God was laying the work of the Cross deep into Jonah so that he would go forth in the power of His Resurrection rather than the strength of a great testimony and more knowledge. Job finally lifted up His eyes from the mire of His own life to see the Son he had heard so much about and be changed deep within to His image. Joseph's life became no longer about seeing another vision or having one more dream, but was swallowed up in the Son as his life. The course of his nature changed in the dark pit of a prison and in the land of his captivity. It's not the place, but the face that makes all the difference. We come to this great end of ourselves with the purpose of entering into Christ in greater fullness of Life.

Do we have visions from God that fade with the remembrance of them? Do we have knowledge that was given of God, but came only by the hearing of the ear? These things can all be lost, even like the light on Moses' face faded. But we can not lose an image change. If our image is changed then we are different, for it is the Son now that lives and no longer us. We will know that we were not simply touched by God but filled with the light of His Life that shined out from our darkness. Oh what a difference! You are not someone carrying a message, you a son by Christ bearing the image of God. That's the revelation of Jesus Christ! HE is revealed in you! There is no more you to be proud of, and there is no more vision to preach about. Now you preach Christ (Gal.1:16). When the Son is revealed in you, then, like Paul, you preach HIM! What else is there to preach, for the visions and prophesies have been fulfilled with the coming of the Son in you!

This message will never fade for His image is now found in you, laid into you foundationally through the revelation of Jesus Christ. Joseph did not preach about a life that was foreign to him in a foreign land. Joseph is a picture and type of someone who came forth in resurrection, strengthened through his trials, and was bound up in the motions of the Son's purposes in the earth through oneness. This could not have happened without the course of his existence being changed through the unveiling of the Son within. Without the tested Word, which is fulfilled through the revelation of Jesus Christ, Joseph would still have just been talking about a vision that would never have been fulfilled. Without the Life of Christ to fulfill the vision, Joseph would have used his power and influence to benefit himself. To love the Lord's appearing is to press past all visions and knowledge into the revelation of Jesus Christ, for without this foundation laid in us we will retain our own image and continue to live selfishly, even in the things of God. Without an image change all those things would have been fruitless. Our lives, relationships and ministries will be carried upon the foundation of Christ and him crucified once it has been truly laid in us.

## **Be Bound Up In Life**

*“But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the spirit” (Jude 10,19).*

There are those who will separate themselves unto the senses, never turning towards the face of God. They are called filthy dreamers, clouds without water and wandering stars. They have the form of a message, but with no life inside. These ones have rejected the Son, for in turning their back on Him they have remained in darkness. Their future is not with the Son but in the darkness they cherished.

May we separate ourselves to know Christ as our only life! Our lives need to be bound up with the Son through the revelation of Jesus Christ. Nothing else will do. To have this foundation laid in us is worth all testing and trials, for our eyes will no longer value the temporal but ever be focused on God's eternal end!\*\*\*