



BUILT to Last

The **storms** in life will test the **strength** of your life.

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." Matthew 7:24-27 (NLT)

These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards." Matthew 7:24-27 (MSG)

- The **foundation** of your life determines the strength of your life.

These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. Matthew 7:24 (MSG)

Making God's Word the foundation of my life:

- I have to **apply** it to my life.

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them... Matthew 7:24 (NLT)

...If you work these words into your life... Matthew 7:24 (MSG)

I don't adjust the Bible to fit **me**; I adjust **me** to fit the Bible.

But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. James 1:22 (NLT)

We don't read God's word just to be **informed**,
but to be **transformed**.

They are no more defined by the world than I am defined by the world. Make them holy—consecrated—with the truth: Your word is consecrating truth. John 17:16-17 (MSG)

- Make His Word a **priority** in my day.

Blessed is the person who does not follow the advice of wicked people, take the path of sinners, or join the company of mockers. Rather, he delights in the teachings of the Lord and reflects on his teachings day and night. Psalm 1:1-2 (GWT)

Love establishes our priorities.

- Allow God's Word to **grow** in your life.

...as newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, that you may grow. 1 Peter 2:2 (NASB)

19 The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. 20 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. 21 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. 22 The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. 23 The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" Matthew 13:19-23 (NLT)

If God's word is going to grow us it has to be **planted** in us.

- Make it a **weapon** for the challenges you face.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground...Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:13, 17 (NIV)
God's Word is an indispensable weapon. Ephesians 6:17 (MSG)

We need God's Word:

- We need God's Word to experience God's **life**.

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. John 6:63 (NIV)

- We need the Word of God to hear the **voice** of God.

God means what he says. What he says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey. Nothing and no one is impervious to God's Word. We can't get away from it—no matter what. Hebrews 4:12-13 (MSG)

Application Step:

- **Surrender** yourself to the God of the Bible.
- Accept the **love** of God.



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- How do we know that we are near a breaking point due to the lack of strength we need?
- Read Matthew 7:24-27 from the message translation. In your own words, what is that saying to you?
- What are some things people use as the foundation for their lives?
- How does applying God's Word make it foundational for our lives? Why is this essential to having God's strength?
- Why are some people only informed by the Word of God while others are transformed by God's Word?
- What are some ways we can make God's Word a priority in our day?
- What are some ways we can allow God's Word to take root and grow in our lives? From Matthew 13:19-23, what type of soil would you say your heart is?
- Do you find that God's Word is a weapon for the battle we are in? Explain.
- Why do we need to surrender to the God of the Bible for the Word to be our foundation? Without surrendering to God what happens?
- Why is it essential to accept the love of God if we're going to experience the Word of God?

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