

Introduction:

- A foundation is that on which any thing stands, and by which it is supported. Ie. Big steel beams in our building
 - Ie. Cement Block
 - Add bricks - you can build on a solid foundation.
- You can build your life on a solid foundation too.
 - Ie. This cement block = Jesus. *"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. **Let each one take care how he builds upon it.**"* (1 Corinthians 3:11,10 ESV)
 - On Christ there are four key disciplines/principles to building a solid life with Christ. If you will do these four well. You will have a successful Christian life
 - Discipline - is a prescribed patter of behavior - what we do.
 - Principle - a rule of code of conduct - why we do it.
- Four Bricks to build a strong solid spiritual life with God. We start with the foundation - Jesus; and we build our lives on Him. We build with:
 - Prayer, The Word, The Holy Spirit, Your circle of friends.

I. PrayerA. Jesus was a man of prayer.

1. Prayed all night. Lk 6:13
2. Early morning Mk 1:35,36
3. Withdrew to wilderness to pray. Lk 5:16
4. After a day of ministry. Mt 14:23
5. He prayed so much the disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray. Lk 11:1

B. What is prayer?

1. It is conversation with God. Here is how I would describe talking with God.
Ready with Pictures, wait for my command.
2. Ie. This is something that I would do with my grandkids. But I would do this with you Sammy because we have bit of a relationship. Why is relationship important?
 - a) It is easier to talk to somebody you have relationship with.
 - (1) Why you must be born again. It is the start of a relationship with God.
 - (2) Why have a prayer life? Why is it important - builds relationship.
 - b) If you are going to talk with God you must have a relationship with him.
 - c) Let's lay down here and let's look up at the sky and pretend that lots of clouds are going over. "Sam what do you see? Describe it. Here is what I see." Prayer is having a conversation with God.

3. Think of how strange it would be if you woke up every morning came into the kitchen and said, "Good morning, breakfast smells and looks good. I am thankful for it. Have a good day." Wouldn't that be weird. There is not much relationship there.
- C. Did you know it costs us to not pray. Bill Johnson.
 1. You have not because you ask not. Prayerlessness creates lack in your life. *"You do not have, because you do not ask."* (James 4:2 ESV)
 2. Pray so you won't enter temptation. Prayerlessness creates a battle you do not need to fight. A prayerless life attracts situations we do not need to deal with.
 3. Some people lack peace because they do not have a prayer life. Phil 4:4-8. Pray without ceasing and peace will guard your heart.

II. The Word of God

- A. Jesus was a man of the Word.
 1. *"But he answered, **It is written,** 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "" (Matthew 4:4, ESV)*
 2. The Word of God was critical to Jesus. I live by every word that comes from God's Father's mouth. The Word of God sustains us! We have to have it!
- B. God wants the Word in us.
 1. Meditate on the Word day and night. *"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."* (Joshua 1:8, ESV) Ie. Cow chewing its cud. 1 stomach four parts. Everyone chew your cud.
 - a) Memorize it, so it stays in your mouth.
 - b) Meditate on it, so it stays in your heart.
 - c) Speak it, so God has something to work with. Jer. 1:12 *God watches over His word to perform it.*
 2. The Word is Alive! The Word is Spirit and it is Life! John 6:63
 - a) My Word is Spirit! It will lead you, help you, heal you, comfort you. **The word in you is God in you!**
 - b) The word is Zoe, the God kind of life! Revival!!!! The Life source!
 3. The Word is our sword. Eph 6:17 Sword of Spirit which is the Word of God.
 - a) You can fight devils with the Word and win.
 - b) You can fight unseen things with the Word.
 4. Mark 4, the Word is also seed.
 - a) Seed sown into your heart will produce a harvest.

- b) Seed sown into your heart will produce Kingdom results. On earth as it is in heaven.
- 5. Your word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against you. Ps 119:11
 - a) Why would you hide the word?
 - (1) You are afraid someone might steal it.
 - (2) Satan come immediately to steal it. Mk 4:15
 - (3) You want to have it ready when you need it.
 - b) You hide the word because it is valuable and you do not want to just leave it laying around.

III. Holy Spirit

- A. Jesus was filled with the Spirit.
 - 1. *"And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;"* (Matthew 3:16, ESV) Jn 1:33 Holy Spirit remains on Jesus.
 - 2. vs. 33 This is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.
- B. God wants us to have the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. Holy Spirit is God with Us!
 - 2. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the Gift of the Father given to His Bride, the church.
 - 3. Holy Spirit comes with His gifts.
 - 4. Holy Spirit is our helper. Jn 14:16 Given to us because God does not want us to be alone.

IV. Circle of Friends

- A. Jesus chose His circle of friends.
 - 1. Jesus chose who he would do life with for the next three years.
 - 2. Jesus chose His friends through prayer (all night). Then chose the twelve. Lk 6:13-14.
 - 3. Of these 12 He had three close friends: Peter James and John. John was best friend.
- B. Choose your friends wisely. Show me your friends and I will show you your future.
 - 1. Bad company corrupts good character. 1 Cor. 15:33 *"Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."* (Proverbs 13:20, ESV)
 - 2. Friends provoke one another to good deeds and good works. *"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,"* (Hebrews 10:24, ESV)
 - 3. Friends provide wise counsel. *"... the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel."* (Proverbs 27:9, ESV)

- C. Friends agree in prayer.
1. *"Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."* (Matthew 18:19, ESV)
- D. Help from a friend. *"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!"* (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, ESV)

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