

Introduction

Please read Hebrews 12:25-29

"For our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:29

"Foundation of the Fire," uses fire as a metaphor in building a strong relationship with Jesus Christ. We will study fire in various form and work: light, heat, melting, immersion, and energy to name a few. Studying fire gives us a recognizable symbol in remembering to anchor our foundation in God.

Hebrews 12:29 compares God as a consuming fire. What an interesting metaphor to compare God with this attribute of fire. Usually, we see God in the New Testament as a gracious and loving Being who died for our sins and became the light of the world.

Hebrews 12:25-28 refers to a time when God will move through the Earth and shake things up. The Lord will separate those who are for Him and those who are not. God desires to take His people home to Heaven, so a clear-cut separation between the two sides is necessary.

Hebrews 12:28 states, "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear." We cannot be moved from God or from what He wants us to be if we serve Him. Our lives must have reverence for God knowing that with Him in ultimate control, we can stand through hard trials.

Look closely to see in verse 26 it says, "Whose voice then shook the earth." God's Word will sweep across the land, touching people's lives to see if they will choose Him or the ideals of the world. The Lord is taking as long as possible so that all people will have a chance to meet Him in Glory. 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

As of this moment, God is waiting and allowing us the opportunity to listen to His words. He wants you to build a firm foundation in Him so you can live eternally with Him in Heaven.

In Luke 6:46-47 Jesus says, "Why are you so polite with me, always saying 'Yes, sir,' and 'That's right sir,' but never doing a thing I tell you. These words I speak to you are not mere additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundation words, words to build a life on." (The Message)

Jesus gives a parable about two types of people. Both groups claim the name of Jesus but only one has set up a true relationship with Him. The group who has a firm foundation in the Lord has three characteristics, which we ourselves can follow.

First, they come to God. This is important because they have to show the Lord they are serious by taking that first step. In our mindset, we have to desire to become what God wants us to be. It

could be deciding to stop drinking if an alcoholic; never visit cities with huge gambling centers if addicted to gambling; to stop gossiping; or to open our Bible more often because it is collecting dust. Whatever the process is, the first step is to come to God. “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,” Matthew 11:28. True peace will only come in our lives if we choose the Lord. Nothing on this planet can bring us satisfaction like God dwelling in our hearts.

God does not expect us to be perfect before coming to Him. Matthew 9:12-13 “But when Jesus heard that, He said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” The Lord has a yearning for us to come as we are. No matter what our weakness is, the Lord desires for us to come to Him. Believing that we can change without God is flawed thinking. God has all power to change us but only if we are willing to come and accept His modifications in our lives.

The second part is to listen to Jesus’ words. Listening is important to building a relationship with God. “...He did this to make you understand that man does not live by bread alone. But man lives by everything that comes out of the mouth of the Lord,” Deuteronomy 8:3 (NLV). We have to listen to what He is saying so we can build a relationship with God.

Gaining knowledge about Christ is important to our growth. The Lord has a wealth of information to give us for help. The Bible is the greatest source for learning Christ’s words but not the only one. Other resources include songs, sermons, church services, people’s lifestyles, books, dreams, and prayer. Regardless of the resource, listen to what God is communicating to build a stronger relationship with Him.

Lastly, after listening, do what Jesus says. “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves,” James 1:22. This means when God tells us to do something, do it. He is not speaking to hear Himself talk. God expects action to take place. Remember, this is the same God who spoke and things were created (Genesis 1). There is power in the words of God. For us to resist the temptations of the world, we have to communicate with God daily and put His instructions for our lives into practice.

Jesus was informing the people what it takes to build a foundation with the Lord. Building a foundation in God will put you in His camp instead of the other. Jesus showed them the difference between the groups in a parable.

Luke 6:48-49 tells the account of two men who built their homes on two separate foundations. Both men have the same house and materials, but one builds it on a rock and the other in sand. Verses 48 and 49 begin by stating that both men have listened to the words of Christ. This means that both came to Christ and has access to the same scriptures and information to grow stronger in the Lord.

However, the difference is that the man who built His home on the rock was the man who did what Jesus says. “...when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it:” Luke 6:48. By doing what God says, the man was able to withstand the

storms of life. Although wet, the home remained, and so it is with us when we build a relationship with God. Compare this to the man who did not listen to the words of God. "...is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell;" Luke 6:49.

We all have some type of access to the Bible, everyone can get some type of message from God, and all people will have a chance to be able to experience Jesus in some form or fashion in their lives. The true difference is what will be done when the knowledge is given. Listening is not enough, as shown in the parable. We must also obey. Jesus knows what is needed in our lives for us to withstand the world.

David in 2 Samuel 22:2 talks about being anchored to the rock, who is Jesus. "...The Lord is my rock and my fortress..." The same sentiment is understood in the new testament where Paul writes, "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ," 1 Corinthians 10:4.

Our foundation needs to be anchored in Jesus. Not only do we need to come to Christ and listen to His words, but also, we need to do His will. By completing all three steps, it digs us deeper into Jesus. This way when problems and trials come our way, we are able to stand and not be destroyed. The time will come for God to cause a separation between those who will go with Him and those who will not. Our foundation in Christ will make all the difference.

This book will give us a starting path to building a foundation with Christ. Albeit some of us have been in church all of our lives while others are picking the Bible up for the first time. We will delve into the Bible so you can have information for starting a relationship with Jesus. Building a foundation will bring peace like no other in this world, "Foundation of the Fire," is a starting point.

Quoted Scriptures

Hebrews 12:25-29	For Our God is a consuming fire
2 Peter 3:9	The Lord is not slack concerning His promise
Luke 6:46-47	They are foundation words, words to build a life on (<i>Message</i>)
Matthew 11:28	Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden
Matthew 9:12-13	For I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance
Deuteronomy 8:3	Man lives by everything that come out of the mouth of the Lord (<i>NLV</i>)
James 1:22	Be ye doers of the word
Luke 6:48-49	He is like a man which built an house, and dig deep
2 Samuel 22:2	The Lord is my rock
1 Corinthians 10:4	Drank of that Spiritual Rock...that Rock was Christ

Scripture for Future Study

Genesis 1	Creation account
Mark 5:1-20	Man healed when encountering Christ
Hebrews 12:25-29	God as a consuming fire

Personal Study

- 1.) In what ways have God set up a foundation in your life? Review your family, schooling, work, friends, or other areas to see how the Lord has used them to help you in your life.
- 2.) Hebrews chapter 12 talked about separating people who choose God and those who do not. In our society, what ways can you see this separation evolve?

Personal Notes