

GROW: Standing When the Storm Hits

Dr. John Carmichael

[Mat 7:24-27 NASB95] 24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and [yet] it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall."

- You Don't Have to Fall!
- Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount with a picture; not of comfort, but of storms.
- Two builders - Two houses - One storm
- Notice: The storm came to both houses.
- The wise builder wasn't exempt. The foolish builder wasn't singled out.
- This is important: Storms are not optional, but collapse is.
- Jesus is not teaching you how to avoid storms...He is teaching you how to stand when they come.

When the storms of life come, and they will, what determines whether I stand or fall?

Jesus makes it clear that the difference is not in the storm, but in the foundation built by those who hear and do His Word.

I. EVERYONE BUILDS, BUT NOT EVERYONE BUILDS WISELY

- a. [Mat 7:24, 26 NASB95] 24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ... 26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.
- b. [1Co 3:10-11 NASB95] 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- c. Every person is building a life.
- d. You are building with your choices, habits, and beliefs.
- e. The difference is not whether you build. It's how you build.
- f. Application: Evaluate what your life is being built on. Ask: "Is my life anchored in the Word or in my feelings?" Make intentional decisions to build on truth.
- g. You are building something every day. Make sure it will stand.
- h. You don't drift into a strong life, you build it.

II. THE FOUNDATION IS HEARING AND DOING THE WORD

- a. [Mat 7:24 NASB95] 24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.
- b. [Jas 1:22 NASB95] 22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.
- c. The foundation is not just hearing. It is hearing AND doing.
- d. Hearing alone produces knowledge. Doing produces stability.
- e. Many hear sermons, but few build their lives on them.
- f. Application: Take one truth from every message and apply it. Obey what God shows you immediately. Don't delay obedience.

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- g. Revelation without application leads to instability.
- h. You don't stand on what you heard. You stand on what you obeyed.

III. STORMS ARE INEVITABLE, BUT DESTRUCTION IS NOT

- a. [Mat 7:25, 27 NASB95] 25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and [yet] it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ... 27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall."
- b. [Jhn 16:33 NASB95] 33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."
- c. Storms will come: pressure, trials, and unexpected situations.
- d. But hear this clearly: the storm is not the problem; the foundation is.
- e. The wise man and the foolish man experienced the same storm, but only one house fell.
- f. Application: Stop being surprised by storms. Start preparing for them. Build before the storm, not during it.
- g. You don't build a foundation in the storm. You rely on what you built before it.
- h. You don't decide your outcome in the storm. You reveal your foundation.

IV. A LIFE BUILT ON THE WORD WILL STAND

- a. [Mat 7:25 NASB95] 25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and [yet] it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.
- b. [Psa 46:1-2 NASB95] 1 For the choir director. [A Psalm] of the sons of Korah, set to Alamoth. A Song. God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;
- c. Jesus doesn't say: "It might stand." OR "It could stand." He says: "It did not fall."
- d. That means: You don't have to collapse. You don't have to break. You don't have to lose everything.
- e. Application: Build daily habits of the Word (reading, speaking, obeying). Strengthen your foundation before crisis hits. Trust that God's Word is enough.
- f. There is no storm stronger than a life built on Christ.
- g. There is not a storm strong enough to knock down a life built on Jesus.

V. IGNORING THE WORD LEADS TO COLLAPSE

- a. [Mat 7:26-27 NASB95] 26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall."
- b. [Hos 4:6 NASB95] 6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.
- c. The foolish man didn't reject the Word. He ignored it. He heard it. He just didn't build with it.
- d. And when the storm came: "Great was its fall."
- e. Application: Don't treat the Word casually. Don't delay obedience. Take God seriously.
- f. Neglecting truth leads to collapse over time.
- g. The danger is not that you don't hear the Word. It's that you don't do it.

- **If you hear and do the Word of Jesus, there is no storm strong enough to take you down.**
- The difference was not: The storm; The situation; The intensity

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- The difference was the foundation.
- You don't have to fall.
- You can stand. You will stand.
- If you build your life on the Word of Jesus Christ.
- Declare: "My life is built on the Word of Jesus. My foundation is strong. When the storm comes, I will stand. I will not fall."