

# HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

## Foundation Of Faith

*What We Believe | Part 1 | 2 Timothy 3:16*

### INTRODUCTION

My first year in seminary was an interesting one. I decided I wanted to learn how to play golf, but I did not have any clubs. I went to a pawn shop and found a full set, a bag, and even a pair of shoes for only \$40. I was so excited. I called a friend, and we went to a local course. I had all the right gear, a golf shirt, polished clubs, and shoes that almost fit. I grabbed a club, took my first swing, and immediately hooked the ball into a Cadillac in the street. For the rest of the round, I played army golf: left, right, left, right. It was so frustrating. I realized I had no idea what I was doing and that there is more to golf than just swinging the club. I needed help.

When it comes to our spiritual walk, many of us need help. We might think that because we grew up in a church or have Christian parents, living the Christian life should come easy. But it is not so simple. The Bible is not a skinny book with big print; it can feel overpowering. To navigate our faith, we need guidance and a firm understanding of what we believe. Jesus gives us clear direction, and it is critical that we build our lives not on what feels right, but on the unchanging truth of God's Word.

### KEY POINTS

#### 1. Beware of a Faith Built on Feelings

Jesus gives a very important warning for all of us: "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves." Too often, people make decisions about their spiritual lives based on feelings. They choose a church because a friend invited them or because the music moves them. While community and worship are good, a faith built only on emotion is unstable. Jesus warns us that there are many false teachers, and if our foundation is not on His truth, we can be easily led astray. We must be discerning and ensure our beliefs are grounded in something more solid than our shifting feelings.

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### 2. Anchor Your Faith in the Authority of Scripture

What is the source of our authority? For some, it is church tradition. For others, it is a popular teacher. But as believers, our final authority must be the Word of God. We believe the Bible is true, reliable, and sufficient to give us clear direction about who God is and how we are to live. No scientific discovery or archaeological find has ever contradicted the Bible. While heaven and earth will pass away, Jesus said His Word will not. Satan's primary attack in recent decades has been on the reliability of Scripture, because if he can erode your confidence in God's Word, your source of authority becomes confused. When you are in doubt, you must always ask: what does the Bible say?

### 3. Embrace Wrestling with the Word of God

It is okay to have questions about the Bible. Many of us have read passages and thought, "I don't get it." This does not mean you lack faith; it means you are engaging with God's Word. We need to give ourselves, our friends, and our children the room to wrestle with difficult passages. We should not be offended when someone questions what Scripture teaches. Instead, we should sort it through with them, because we know that God's Word is true. Our confidence is not in our ability to understand everything perfectly, but in the God who speaks to us through His Word. A faith that is never tested is a faith that cannot be trusted.

A faith without limits is not built on the shifting sands of feelings or the traditions of men. It is built on the unshakeable rock of God's Word. The single most important question you can ask in any situation is, "What does the Bible say?" This is not about using Scripture as a weapon to win arguments, but as a lamp to guide your feet in a dark world. It is the source of truth that helps you identify false teaching and gives you confidence to stand firm.

This commitment to Scripture is not just for you; it is a legacy you pass on to your children and grandchildren. By modeling a faith that trusts God's Word, even when you wrestle with it, you teach the next generation where to find their authority.

Ultimately, the Bible points us to the most important truth: our salvation is not based on our own goodness. The Bible says that "all of our righteousness is as filthy rags." We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone (*Ephesians 2:8-9*). He took our sin upon Himself at the cross so that we could receive His righteousness. A faith without limits begins at that moment of surrender, when you acknowledge your sin and place your complete trust in Him.

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### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what areas of your spiritual life might you be relying more on feelings or friendships than on the solid truth of the Bible? How can you begin to shift your foundation to God's Word?
2. Dr. Dodd asks, "When in doubt, what does the Bible say?" Think of a current challenge or decision you are facing. What is one practical step you can take this week to seek God's direction from Scripture on that matter?
3. How can you create a more open environment for your family or friends to ask hard questions about the Bible? What would it look like to model a faith that wrestles honestly but still trusts God's Word completely?

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