

life on the Rock - the foundation for spiritual Maturity

February 7 – Our Destination

“Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. ² Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.”

Ephesians 5:1-2 NLT

Well, so far in this series, we have determined that to live with the greatest stability and assurances, we need to build a long-lasting, strong, and immovable **FOUNDATION!** (Emphasis on foundation).

We could have talked about important issues like choosing the right vocation suitable for our personality that offers the greatest chance to advance and succeed.

We could have mentioned the importance of creating a strong financial base for the future – choices involving saving, investing, wise spending, etc.

We could have mentioned the value of relationships and the invaluable effect that long-term committed relationships bring to a stable future – choosing our life partner and developing healthy relatable skills that will foster success for marriage as well as parenting skills.

These are all extremely important issues, and we must seek to implement them into our planning for life, without question.

But, the reason we haven't spoken about those things has to do with our greatest, and most important choice option that will ultimately be the thing on which all other issues in life will be built upon.

1. This foundation rests on the footing of **actually wanting to live a life of faith.**

If we do anything for any other reason the value is lost.

If we don't want a life that is defined by the life of Jesus, then we will never really be able to experience the true touch of Grace.

life on the Rock - the foundation for spiritual Maturity

2. Having put Jesus at the center of our universe then, to grow in our faith journey and to become the best version of ourselves, **we must communicate with God** – Now we're applying the Rocks of our faith - the building foundation with solid material that cannot be destroyed.
 - a. **Listening to Him** through His written word, **the Bible**, and in our experiences of faith;
 - b. And **sharing with Him** our deepest desires **through prayer**.

Let's lay the third layer of stone as we develop our foundation of spiritual growth.

On this Journey with Jesus, we need a destination.

Our ultimate goal or destiny is eternal life in the presence of God and His Son, Jesus.

Knowing this we can understand the greater value of our life here on earth.

Let's discover our destination.

In Heaven we will be like Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:48-49, 53

Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man. ⁴⁹Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man.

⁵³For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

So, our goal on earth is to –

life on the Rock - the foundation for spiritual Maturity

Bear the image of our heavenly Father – seen in His earthly image – Jesus.

Colossians 1:15

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

Colossians 1:19

For God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. ² Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

1. Once we have surrendered our lives to Jesus, we have been changed.

Galatians 2:20 ERV

So I am not the one living now – it is Christ living in me. I still live in my body, but I live by faith in the Son of God. He is the One who loved me and gave Himself to save me.

2. We do not rely on our own strength - He has given us His divine power.

Romans 8:9-10

...you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) ¹⁰ And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God.

A Life of Faith, Trusting In Jesus, cannot be taken lightly!

A test:

- Are we making progress in our Christlikeness?
- Are we surrendered to the Holy Spirit in everything we do?

life on the Rock – the foundation for spiritual Maturity

- Are we growing in our image of Christ?

Take a look at this truth:

Romans 8:5-8

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷ For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸ That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

1. Letting sin dominate our life demonstrates a dominance of sinful desires and bears no evidence of the Holy Spirit in us.

Maybe there has been no desire at all to surrender to Christ.

Maybe the *thought* of being a follower of Christ hasn't yet translated into reality – just the thought cannot produce a life of Christ.

In this state, a person can never please God.

However, struggling with sin as an actual Christ-follower is something of a different nature.

2. All believers, followers of Jesus, struggle with sin.

But, we're not "letting" the sin nature control us, but we are struggling in our progress to giving the Holy Spirit control over that aspect of our life.

Romans 7:21-25

I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²² I love God's law with all my heart. ²³ But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. ²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and

life on the Rock - the foundation for spiritual Maturity

death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

3. Trusting in Jesus means we must bear the resemblance of His Character.

- Jesus desired to please the Father.
“Not my will, Father, but my Your will be done.” – Matthew 26:39
- Jesus goal was to demonstrate the Love of the Father.
“God so loved the world that He sent His only Son...” – John 3:16
- Jesus mission was to bring salvation to the lost and dying world.
“For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.” – 2 Corinthians 5:19