

Upon This Rock

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Matthew 16:18 – NIV

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

1 Corinthians 3:11 (NIV)

¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Foundations are important.

Foundations are important and there is no stronger foundation that to build upon the one Christ already laid.

1 Corinthians 3: 9-16 (NIV)

⁹ For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. **¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.** ¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of

each person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

¹⁶ Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

To be the type of temple that comes through the fire and is not consumed, endures the shaking and does not crumble, we must have a firm foundation!

1. What is the purpose of a strong foundation?

- a. Already established that **a strong foundation is needed to provide support to the structure built on top of it.**
- b. But a second, lesser-known purpose is that **the foundation also acts as a dam**, keeping groundwater out of the lowest levels of the property, which can lead to mold growth and, worse, undermine the integrity of the structure.
 - i. Isaiah 59:19 “When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Lord will raise a standard against him.”
 - ii. A strong foundation will keep the water from the storm out and reinforce our integrity.
- c. **When a structure is placed onto the foundation it must be anchored. Anchoring sets the building up for success and ensures it will stand against the elements that come against it.**
 - i. Anchor rods, or anchor bolts, are steel rods that are set into concrete with the purpose of connecting the steel structure to the foundation. Anchor bolts are typically installed when a foundation is being laid.
 1. Christ set the anchor bolts for our faith in the concrete of his foundation when he allowed himself to be anchored to the cross.

2. Romans 12:3 says that we are each given a measure of faith. Faith is our anchor.

2. How do we anchor our lives to the foundation of Christ?

- a. **We must get to know Jesus and get close to him.** Getting to Him is the only way to build a structure that will endure the test of time. Once we accept Jesus as Savior and He becomes our foundation, it is our responsibility to build on that foundation.
- b. **We are the builders of our temple.**

3. We must build a temple God desires to dwell in.

- a. Cor 3:14 could be rewritten to read “Every person is set on a rock-solid foundation, but what he builds on top of it is his responsibility. If he has constructed his life and works so well that they remain after the fires of life have come and gone, this is what will merit him a reward in the future.”
- b. And I tell you that you are Peter, your faith is solid, anchor yourself to me, and on this rock, this revelation of who I am, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades may burst open and rush in like a flood, but it will not overcome the foundation I have laid. Build your life on me and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; your reward will be that whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”