

## “ROCK SOLID”

*“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundations of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the Chief Cornerstone, in Whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” Eph. 2:19-21*

As a child, I learned about Jesus. I heard how He cared for the sparrow, how He clothed the flowers, how He gave food to eat and water to drink, how His love was so great that He went to the cross for my sins, how my relationship with God was made right again...because of Jesus! How I loved Him! He was my best friend. I would sit on my grandma’s lap and listen to her talk of Jesus, (One of her favorite Bible verses came from Matthew 7: 24-25: *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rains fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it has been founded on rock.”*) and all He had done for her through her life. (My grandma had a hard life.) Her eyes would tear up as she spoke of her Savior and her deep desire to see Him face to face. I would finish my meal each night and wait in anticipation for our family devotions. Each morning I would wake up and thank Jesus for taking care of me through the night and ask Him to be with through the new day. I knew *who* I was and *Whose* I was. I was building my life on the Solid Rock, learning all I could from those faithful saints God had placed in my life, to help my foundation be strong and solid, yes, with Jesus Christ Himself, being the Chief Cornerstone. I believed, at that time in my life, that with Jesus in my life, it would always be good.

### **But the rains came...**

\*Dad came home that night and told us we would have to move. His company was closing its doors and he had found a new job. “But I like it here! I don’t want to leave my friends!”

\*“Don’t you just love our new car?” It was the first one we had ever had. That night, Mom called home and said that the car had been hit by a teenager who had just gotten her permit, as it sat in front of the church.

\*“We’re sorry. Your son has been in a car accident. He has been transported via Life Line helicopter with life-threatening injuries.” My older brother, his senior year...

\* The morning of my sister’s wedding was beautiful. I called Grandma to tell her what time I would pick her up from the care center for the wedding that afternoon. My mother came down the aisle at the rehearsal that morning to tell us that Grandma had gone home to be with Jesus.

\* “Steve has cancer.” My nephew is only in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, how can that be?

\* “He has a disease which is so rare that we just don’t know enough about it to treat it. His life expectancy will not be long. We heard that for two of my brothers as young adults...

\*As the phone rang early that morning, I knew the news would not be good. “Dad is in the hospital. The doctors say he is dying.” I hung up the phone stunned. I had just talked to him the night before. He “seemed” fine.

\* “Mom is in the hospital. Can you come?” “No!” My mind screamed, “I am NOT ready to lose her, too, not so soon after Dad!”

### **“And the rains came and the winds blew and beat upon that house...”**

Troubles do come our way. Just because we love Jesus, just because we desire to serve Him, it does NOT mean our lives will be free of trouble. Thankfully my parents and grandparents gave me the gift of a Rock Solid foundation which I *watched* lived out each day, with each phone call or each new piece of “bad” news. My grandma lived it, my parents knew it, and my siblings and I learned it. Our lives will have difficulties, but with each tragedy, each new problem, each piece of tough news, we always knew *who* we were and *Whose* we were.

This year, our theme is **SOLID ROCK**. We want to help our students and their families build a strong faith foundation so that when the storms of life hit, and they will, their house (faith) will not fail them. It will stand strong and give them the courage and strength to continue on, to put that faith into action, to find shelter. May Christ Jesus Himself be the Cornerstone!