

## **FIRM FOUNDATIONS - HOW TO SURVIVE LIFE'S STORMS**

*"Therefore everyone who **hears these words** of mine and **puts them** into practice is like a **wise man** who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; **yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock**. But everyone who hears these words of mine and **does not** put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and **it fell with a great crash**." Matthew 7:24-27*

### **I. Introduction**

*"The arrogance of the young is a direct result of not having known enough consequences. The turkey that every day greedily approaches the farmer who tosses him grain is not wrong. It is just that no one ever told him about Thanksgiving."---Harry Golden*

## **II. BIBLICAL INSIGHTS ABOUT BUILDING ON THE ROCK**

### **1. A life built on the rock \_\_\_\_\_**

*"For I say to you, that **unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees**, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:20 (NKJV)*

*"...**you Pharisees nullify the word of God because of your dead traditions**. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are only rules taught by men.'" Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth---that is what makes him 'unclean.'" The disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. Leave them; **they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a ditch**." Matthew 15:6-14*

### **2. You must \_\_\_\_\_ to build your life on the Rock**

*"...Jesus...asked His disciples, "**Who do people say that the Son of Man is?**" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "**But who do you say that I am?**" Simon Peter replied, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God**." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, **but my Father who is in heaven**." And I tell you, you are **Peter**, and on this **rock** I will **build** my church, and **the gates of hell shall not prevail against it**. Matthew 16:13-18 (ESV)*

**Peter** is translated from the Greek word "**Petros**" which means a small rock or stone that stands alone. The word **Rock** is translated from the Greek word "**Petra**" which means a large projecting rock that is a foundational rock. Peter or "**Petros**" is masculine, and Rock or "**Petra**" is feminine.

*"This **Jesus is the stone** that was rejected by you, the builders, which **has become the cornerstone**. And **there is salvation in no one else**, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:1-12 (ESV)*

**3. You must \_\_\_\_\_ to build your life on the Rock**

*"**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God** and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." II Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)*

*"And one angel called to another and said: "**Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts**; the whole earth is full of His glory!" Isaiah 6:3*

*"For you are great and do wondrous things; **You alone are God.**" Psalm 86:10*

***Dr. Andrew Parker, an agnostic, who is a leading British scientist, evolutionary biologist,** and the head of the Natural History Museum in London, home to one of the world's largest collections of fossils. After he studied the creation account in the book of Genesis and compared it with the scientific account of the history of life, he writes the following in his 2009 book titled. "***The Genesis Enigma.**" "Here is the *Genesis Enigma*. The opening pages of Genesis are scientifically accurate. But were written long before the science was known. How did the writer of these pages come to write this creation account? I must admit rather nervously, as a scientist averse to entertaining such an idea that the evidence that the writer of the opening pages of the Bible was divinely inspired is strong. **I have never before encountered such powerful impartial evidence that the Bible is the product of divine inspiration.**" Dr. Andrew Parker (Leading secular British Scientist, Evolutionary Biologist, Head of Natural History Museum, London, England)**

**4. If your life is founded on the Rock, no \_\_\_\_\_  
can shake you loose from the Savior's hand**

*"On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" **Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.** But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the waves obey Him!" Mark 4:35-41 (NKJV)*

*"**God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble.** Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging." Psalm 46:1-3*

*"But now, thus says the LORD, who created you and who formed you: **"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine.** When you pass through the **waters**, I will be with you; and through the **rivers**, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the **fire**, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior..." Isaiah 43:1-3 (NKJV)*

*"What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. **Who (or what) shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?...No, **in all these situations we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:31-39 (ESV)*

**ANSWER KEY:**

- 1. can't be rocked**
- 2. see and accept the Rock**
- 3. reverence the Rock**
- 4. natural or demonic storm**