



Foreword by Jack Taylor

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STUDY GUIDE

A **RADICAL** ESSENTIALS FOR SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVERS **FAITH**



Lesson 1

The Foundation for All Believers

I. The Believer's Life Compared to a Building

A. In the language of the Bible, the believer's life is compared to a well-built structure constructed on a firm foundation, and the believer is expected to be active in the building process.

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

Jude 20

B. In the natural realm, the most important feature of any structure is its foundation. The foundation sets the limit to the weight and size of the building erected upon it. A small or weak foundation can support only a small building. In like manner, a deep or strong foundation can support a large building. The same is true of our spiritual lives.

For we are God's fellow workers; . . . you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

1 Corinthians 3:9–10

C. The words of the New Testament are addressed to a body of people, not only to individuals. This includes the words about "building."

And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:22, NIV

D. The Church (capital C for the worldwide group of people over the centuries and throughout the nations of the earth) is Jesus' idea. He is the Bridegroom and the Church is His Bride. He died to bring her to maturity so that she could be with Him forever.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6–7

II. Jesus Christ—the Solid Rock of our Foundation

A. Jesus is the Rock, and we need to trust the Rock more than we trust what has been built on it.

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

1 Corinthians 3:11, NIV

1. Both the Old and New Testaments agree that Christ alone is our foundation.

This is what the Sovereign LORD says:
“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;
the one who trusts will never be dismayed.

Isaiah 28:16, NIV

2. Peter quoted the Old Testament words from Isaiah 28:16 in one of his New Testament epistles:

For in Scripture it says:
“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

1 Peter 2:6, NIV

B. Jesus’ own words confirm that He considers Himself our foundation. (In Greek, the language of the New Testament, two different words are used for “rock.” Jesus is a *petra*, a large, cliff-sized rock, and Peter, whose name comes from this word, is *petros*, a small stone. Jesus is the Rock of our salvation, the One upon whom the Church has been situated, and Peter is an apostle (a servant messenger) of the Lord in the foundation of the house. And all of us have “been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:20).

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”
Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus answered and said to 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 also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:15–18

1. As much as his name matches the word, Peter himself is not the Rock.

The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock . . . (Psalm 18:2, NIV).

2. My soul waits in silence for God only . . . he only is my Rock and my salvation, my stronghold, and I shall not be greatly shaken . . . My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. . . . In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

Psalm 62:1–2, 5, 7

3. Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the “stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.” Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:10–12

4. He only is my rock and my salvation;
He is my defense;
I shall not be moved.

Psalm 62:6

C. The four stages of laying a proper foundation include the following:

1. Personal confrontation by Christ (see Matthew 16:16).
2. A direct, spiritual revelation of Christ (see John 16:13–14).
3. A personal acknowledgment of Christ (see John 17:3; 1 John 5:13, 20; 2 Timothy 1:12).
4. An open and personal confession of Christ (see Job 22:21; 2 Timothy 1:12).

III. Hearing and Doing the Words of Christ

- A. Once it has been laid, we can build on the firm foundation by hearing and doing the words of Christ Jesus. This is the essence of the building process.

Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.

Matthew 7:24–27, NASB

So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Acts 20:32

B. The Bible is the written Word; Christ is the Living Word.

1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1

2. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

3. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

Revelation 19:13

C. Our relationship to the Bible must mirror our relationship to Christ Himself.

The test of our discipleship is the keeping of His Word.

“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”

Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

John 14:19–23

D. The test of our love for Christ and the release of God’s favor toward us ties directly to our devotion to His Word.

He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

1 John 2:4–5

E. Jesus Christ manifests Himself to us, His disciples, through God's Word as it is heard, kept and obeyed.

1. And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.

Acts 2:17

2. May His light grow in us as we abide in His Word and are filled with His Spirit.

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good.

1 Thessalonians 5:19–21

F. God establishes His abiding presence with His disciples through His Word, which causes us to bear much fruit and avoiding much error.

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. . . . If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

John 15:4–5, 7–8

1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, . . .

Genesis 1:1–3

2. By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

Psalm 33:6

3. Then if anyone says to you, "Look, here is the Christ!" or "There!" do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.

Matthew 24:23–25

4. But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

1 Timothy 4:1–3, NASB

5. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20–21, NIV

6. God's Word and God's Spirit united in our lives contain all the creative authority and power of God Himself. Through the combination of the written and living Word, the Word and the Spirit, God will supply every need and will work out His perfect will, purpose and destiny for us. Built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, the Word Himself, we can expect to flourish—from now to eternity.

The words of the LORD are pure words,
Like silver tried in a furnace of earth,
Purified seven times.

Psalms 12:6

Reflection Questions
Lesson 1 / The Foundation for All Believers

(Answers to these questions can be found in the back of the study guide.)

1. Fill in the blank:

To be well-built, any structure requires a strong _____.

To be a mature and successful believer, you must have a firm _____ of faith.

2. Referring back to section II. C., what are the four stages of laying a proper foundation in Christ? (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____ (4) _____

3. Multiple choice: Choose the best answer from this list.

- (a) Jesus Christ
- (b) sound doctrine
- (c) the Church
- (d) good teaching

The foundation of the Christian faith is _____

4. Fill in the blank: “Jesus is the _____ of our salvation. The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief _____.”

5. Whose responsibility is it to build on top of your faith foundation? (a) God’s? (b) Your pastor or more mature friends? (c) Your own?

Personal Application Questions

6. Think about your own foundation in Christ. Is it sound? Immovable? Strong enough to build on? Glancing at the lesson titles in the table of contents, can you already

spot an area where your foundational beliefs may be weaker than you would like?

What area(s) need strengthening? How will you accomplish this?