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## Heart and Soul ... A Weekly Meditation

May 25, 2014

### Life Built on a Rock

*“Only God is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, I won’t be shaken anymore.”*  
Psalm 62:2 (Common English Bible)

Some years ago the comedy film, *The Money Pit*, starring Tom Hanks and Shelley Long, followed an engaged couple who attempt to renovate a recently purchased home. From the moment the couple – played by Hanks and Long – takes possession of the house, it quickly begins to fall apart. A contractor is called in and work permits are issued. The job is originally estimated to take two weeks. In fact, the repair work continues for a grueling four months. Frustrated by the ongoing delays and increasing cost of the work, Hanks dubs the house, “the money pit.”

Though the increasing surprises of additional work required by the house provides comedic fodder there is another important dynamic that develops in the film – the continued delays and rising cost of the repairs place an uncommon strain upon the relationship of Hanks and Long. As the structure of the house slowly becomes sound, the relationship of Hanks and Long deteriorates. Near the end of the movie, Hanks and Long have resolved to separate and sell the house. With significant tension present between Hanks and Long - but both exercising remarkable restraint in their conduct toward one another - the general contractor addresses each of them; “Yes, there were considerable repairs that were necessary but the house has a good foundation. With a good foundation, everything else can be salvaged.” At that moment it was as if the contractor was a priest speaking to the relational brokenness of Tom Hanks and Shelley Long.

The Bible never promises that our faith shields us from the wind and storms of life. There will be moments when each of us will feel attacked and oppressed from every side. The encouragement of this sentence of scripture is that we prepare for the storms by building our life upon a good foundation; upon the solid rock of Almighty God. The use of “only” in this scripture reminds us that God is both the source and ground of life.

This confession is repeated in the fifth verse for the sake of encouragement for self and as testimony to others. It is the testimony that we can wait out the struggles of the present moment in the certain confidence of God’s care. As biblical scholar and teacher James Limburg observes, “The psalmist is able to look away from the immediate battering (of life) and remember that the big things that hold life together, such as salvation and hope, come from God.”<sup>1</sup>

*In the storms of life, O God, cradle me in the certain arms of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Doug Hood

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<sup>1</sup> James Limburg, *Psalms: Westminster Bible Companion* (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000), 206.