

FOUNDATIONS: BUILDING A LIFE THAT STANDS

Key Texts:

Hebrews 6:1–2

Ephesians 4:4–6

Romans 14

1 Corinthians 13

1 Corinthians 3:9–11

Luke 6:47–49

1 Peter 2:4–6

INTRODUCTION: UNITY, LIBERTY, AND LOVE

Church, today we are starting a new teaching series called “**Christian Foundations.**”

¹*Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, Or from useless rituals and of faith in God,* ²*instruction about cleansing rites, Or about baptisms the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.*

Hebrews 6:1-2 NIV

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SERIES

This Foundations series is based on **Hebrews 6:1–2**:

“Let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity...”

We will lay again:

- Repentance
- Faith
- Baptisms
- Laying on of hands
- Resurrection
- Eternal judgment

Not to stay there—but to **build upward**.

The Greek idea behind “*be taken forward*” carries a **passive sense**: *to be carried on, borne forward*. Maturity is not selfmanufactured but **Godenabled growth** that happens when believers cooperate with His work.

Key theological point:

Foundations are **necessary but insufficient**. You don’t abandon the foundation—you **build upon it**.

The writer is confronting a community that has:

- Correct beliefs
- Religious familiarity
- But stalled spiritual development

Before we talk about *what* we believe, we need to understand *how* we approach belief itself. There is a well-known Christian principle that says:

- **In essential beliefs — we have unity.**
- **In non-essential beliefs — we have liberty.**
- **In all our beliefs — we show charity.**

1. In Essential Beliefs — We Have Unity

Paul says in **Ephesians 4:4–6**:

⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. '

Ephesians 4:4-6

Essentials are not negotiable:

- • **Jesus is Lord**
- • **Salvation is by grace through faith**
- • **Christ died, rose again, and will return**
- • **There is one God**

If we remove unity here, the church collapses.

2. In NonEssential Beliefs — We Have Liberty

Paul writes in **Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22**:

- • ¹*Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.*
- • ⁴*Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.*
- • ¹²*So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.*
- • ²²*So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. '*

Romans 14:1,4,12,22

Nonessentials are things like:

- • Styles of worship
- • End-times views
- • Certain practices or traditions

These are not salvation issues, and we must learn to walk in grace.

3. In All Beliefs — We Show Charity

Paul reminds us in **1 Corinthians 13:2**:

"If I hold in my mind all human knowledge... but have no love, I am nothing."

Truth without love produces pride.

Love without truth produces compromise.

God calls us to hold both.

WHY FOUNDATIONS MATTER

Have you ever seen an area after severe flooding?

Some houses are still standing—even though they were submerged.

Others are completely gone, as if they never existed.

It's never about:

- • Size
- • Appearance
- • Cost

It's always about **the foundation**.

The parts you never see determine what survives the storm.

The Guest House Illustration

There is a story of a successful guest house owner in Israel. He had a doublestorey building and decided to add another level without council approval to avoid costs.

The foundation was designed for **two stories**, not **three**.

At first, everything looked fine:

- Business was booming
- Rooms were full
- Walls were freshly painted

But cracks appeared.

Instead of addressing the foundation, he covered the cracks.

Until one night, a guest woke to find an entire corner of his room gone.

The building collapsed—not because of the third floor, but because the **foundation could not carry the weight**.

OUR LIVES ARE LIKE A HOUSE

Your life is a house.

Your future, your family, your calling—everything rests on the foundation.

It's not storms that destroy people.

It's **what the storms expose**.

A weak foundation may survive sunny days, but it will not survive pressure.

CHRIST IS THE ONLY FOUNDATION

Paul is very clear in **1 Corinthians 3:9–11**:

“For we are God’s fellow workers, you are God’s field, 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. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

The foundation is not:

- Church attendance
- Good intentions
- Religious activity

The foundation is a **relationship with Jesus Christ**.

THE CORNERSTONE

Isaiah prophesied this centuries earlier in **Isaiah 28:16 (AMP)**:

***16** Therefore thus says the Lord God, Behold, I am laying in Zion for a foundation a Stone, a tested Stone, a precious Cornerstone of sure foundation; he who believes (trusts in, relies on, and adheres to that Stone) will not ^[a]be ashamed or give way or hasten away [in sudden panic].*

The cornerstone determines:

- The alignment of the building
- The strength of the structure
- The direction of every other stone

Jesus is not an add-on.

He is not decoration.

He is the **reference point** for everything in your life.

HOW DO WE STAND AGAINST LIFE’S STORMS?

Jesus gives the answer Himself in **Luke 6:47–49**.

I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words

and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who, dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

Notice three key actions:

- • **He comes to Jesus**
- • **He hears His words**
- • **He puts them into practice**

Many hear the Word. Few live the Word.

Hearing builds knowledge.

Obedience builds foundations.

Storms come to **both houses**. Only one remains standing.

WHEN FOUNDATIONS ARE MISSING

When foundations are weak, believers remain spiritual infants.

The writer of Hebrews says in **Hebrews 5:11–14**:

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Paul echoes this in **1 Corinthians 3:1–2**:

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.

God desires maturity, not perpetual infancy.

SIGNS OF SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

Let's honestly examine ourselves.

1. Dullness Toward the Word

Hebrews 5:11

An inability to grasp or engage Scripture

2. Inability to Teach Others

Hebrews 5:12

Years in church, yet unable to disciple

3. Milk-Only Diet

1 Peter 2:1–2

Always needing encouragement, never instruction

4. Unskilled Use of the Word

James 1:19

Speaking without wisdom, reacting emotionally

5. Easily Offended by Truth

1 Peter 2:6–8

Taking correction personally instead of spiritually

6. Carnal Thinking

Romans 8:5–7

Living by feelings rather than the Spirit

7. Easily Swayed by New Teachings

Ephesians 4:14

Chasing trends instead of truth

8. Ongoing Misconduct

1 Corinthians 3:1–4

Same sins, same struggles, no growth

CONCLUSION: DIG DEEP

Church, storms are inevitable. Pain will come. Pressure will arrive.

The question is not *if* your house will be tested —

The question is **what it is built on**.

You can decorate cracks. You can hide weaknesses. But only obedience builds strength.

Jesus is calling us:

- • From shallow belief to deep roots
- • From hearing to doing
- • From infancy to maturity

Let us be a people whose lives **withstand the flood**.