

*"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. Matthew 7:24-25 (NIV)*

## Two Choices

**You have a choice to make, two choices actually.** What are they? **The first choice is easy to miss. People take the first choice as a given, forget it and move on.** What's the first question?? **Will you hear my words?** That sounds easy enough. **Yes it does, but it is actually quite difficult.** It doesn't seem so. **Hearing my word is not the hardest part.** What is then? **It's choosing to hear my word that is difficult.** Why is that so hard? **You tell me, what would distract you from hearing my word? How much of my word is enough for you to hear? Is hearing my word once or twice a week enough for you? Do you want all my word to be spoon fed to you by others or do you want to be able to feast on it for yourself? If my word were more valuable than silver or gold, which it is, how much of it would you want? How many, do you think, really desire my word and value it above silver, gold or anything else?** You certainly have a lot of questions for me. **Yes I do, tell me what you think.**

I think that your word is not valued as it should be. There been times in my life when I have let just about anything distract me from prayerfully reading and hearing and your word. It pains me to know that I've spent more time watching television or playing on the computer than I have spent prayerfully reading and hearing your word. That's like trading garbage for gold. **Yes, it is. Why has all this changed for you?** You led me to carve out a specific time and place to meet with you in your word everyday. **That's an interesting choice of some words.** Why is that? **Why did you use the word carve?** It took a real rock solid commitment to set apart an uninterrupted time to meet with you. **What helped you do that?** I realized that our special time together would only be consistent if nothing was allowed to compete with it. I knew that I should start very small and let our time together grow over time. **That's why you chose to meet with me just before you went to bed every night?** Yes, I knew that nothing would compete with that time and place. **That became a sacred time and place for you didn't it?** Yes, it did. **Have other things tried to compete with this time that you have set apart to meet with me?** No, not really. It's like there has been a wall of protection over our time together that distractions of any kind are not allowed to penetrate. Very quickly our meeting together became an automatic pattern that is as regular as clockwork. Actually, as we've met together, my hunger and desire to spend more time with you has grown. **Yes, it has.**

**Have you noticed anything about the second choice?** What's that? **It's putting my word into practice.** Yes, actually I have. **What's that?** I've noticed that when I'm hearing and praying over your word; obeying you and putting your word into practice has become the desire of my heart. I don't obey you because I should or because I must. **You don't? Why do you obey me?** I obey you and put your word into practice because I love you. I want to do whatever pleases you. The more I'm with you in your word the less interest or attraction I have for the things of this world. You have been transforming my heart and mind by your word.. Your word is helping me to think your thoughts. You are molding and make shaping my life by your word. You are making me into who you want me to be by your word. **Yes, I am.** Your word has become a firm foundation for me. It is now a wall of protection around me. I have discovered that your word really is more valuable than silver or gold. **Yes it is. Continue hearing my words and putting them into practice.** Yes Lord, I will.

*Lord, in the past I have allowed shaky materials to be the foundation of my life. These will not help me to withstand the storms of life. Give me a firm foundation that is built on your word. Help me to continue to come to you to hear your word and to put it into practice. Amen*

**Parables** *Wise And Foolish Builders*

"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.

NIV Matthew 7-24-25

**Parables** *Wise And Foolish Builders*

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock.

NLT Matthew 7-24-25

**Parables** *Wise And Foolish Builders*

"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 rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.

NRSV Matthew 7-24-25

**Parables** *Wise And Foolish Builders*

So everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts upon them [obeying them] will be like a sensible (prudent, practical, wise) man who built his house upon the rock. And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

AMP Matthew 7-24-25

**Parables** *Wise And Foolish Builders*

"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.

NASB Matthew 7-24-25

**Parables** *Wise And Foolish Builders*

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

ESV Matthew 7-24-25

**Parables** *Wise And Foolish Builders*

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

NKJV Matthew 7-24-25

**Parables** *Wise And Foolish Builders*

"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock.

MSG Matthew 7-24-25

**Parables** *Wise And Foolish Builders*

"All who listen to my instructions and follow them are wise, like a man who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents, and the floods rise and the storm winds beat against his house, it won't collapse, for it is built on rock.

TLB Matthew 7-24-25

**Parables** *Wise And Foolish Builders*

"Everyone who hears my words and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. It rained hard, the floods came, and the winds blew and hit that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock.

NCV Matthew 7-24-25

# Wise And Foolish Builders

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Parables** – Matthew 7:24-25

**In Context:** *Read Matthew 7*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

"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. Matthew 7:24-25

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

"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. Matthew 7:24-25

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**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I have allowed shaky materials to be the foundation of my life. These will not help me to withstand the storms of life. Give me a new life foundation that is built on your word. Help me to hear your word and put it into practice. Amen

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**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

**What construction materials are being used to build and shape the person you are becoming?**

How valuable is it for you to let God's word be the foundation on which your life is built?

**When do you set aside a time and place to meet with God so that you can hear His word?**

How are you making sure that God's word is being put into practice in your life on a daily basis?

What would you consider to be of higher priority than prayerfully meeting with God in His word?

How has God transformed your heart and your mind and changed the course of your life by His word?

**How has God's word been a rock like foundation that has helped you to withstand the storms of life?**

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**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Carve out a time and set aside a special place to meet with God in His word on a daily basis.

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**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that there is nothing more valuable or important than meeting with God in His word.

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**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how God's word is the foundation on which your life is being built.

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**Close With Prayer:** ***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

