

"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 (NIV)

Into Practice

It is very good that you are making every effort to meet with me in my word. It is excellent that you are listening attentively to me. It is very wise that you have set a specific daily time and place to hear what I have to say to you. There is one thing that you must also do if you want to have a life that is built on a rock-solid foundation. What's that? You must be very sure that you are not only hearing my word, but you must also make equally sure that you are putting my word into practice. You must hear and do my word. I get that, I understand. **Do you have more to say on this subject?** I know that your word is filled with your promises. I also know that with each of your promises there is a condition or conditions that must be fulfilled as part of receiving your promises. **Can you say more? Describe one of my conditions.** Well, I can do one better. In the verses here, that we are considering, you have one promise and two conditions. The promise can only be fulfilled if the two conditions are met. Your promise is that I can have a rock-solid foundation for my life that will withstand the storms of life. In order for that promise to be fulfilled, I need to both hear and put your word into practice. So, hearing your word on a daily basis is vitally important. So also, is putting your word into practice. **How or why will hearing and putting my word into practice build a rock-solid foundation for your life that will be able to withstand the storms that are sure to come?** Your word will change my heart and transform my mind. Your word will guard and guide the course of my life. Meeting with you in your word will give me the wisdom and strength and perseverance through any storm I will face in life. The habit of meeting daily with you in your word will cause me to rely on you for your help. You will be my shelter. You will be my refuge and fortress and deliverer. **Yes, I will.** You will have taught me that my hope and help is in and comes from you as I hold on to your promises. **That is true. That is right. That is certain.** Thank you, Lord.

Lord, I will set apart a daily time and place to meet with you in your word. I will listen attentively to all that you have to say to me. I will not only listen, but I will put your word in practice so that I will have a rock-solid foundation for the entire course of my life. Amen

The Word Centered Life *Puts Them Into Practice*

"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."

NIV Matthew 7:24-27

The Word Centered Life *Follows It*

"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. But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

NLT Matthew 7:24-27

The Word Centered Life *Acts On Them*

"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. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!"

NRSV Matthew 7:24-27

The Word Centered Life *Acts Upon Them*

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. And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a stupid (foolish) man who built his house upon the sand. And the rain fell and the floods came and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great and complete was the fall of it.

AMP Matthew 7:24-27

The Word Centered Life *Acts On Them*

"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."

NASB Matthew 7:24-27

The Word Centered Life *Does Them*

"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. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

ESV Matthew 7:24-27

The Word Centered Life *Does Them*

"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. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

NKJV Matthew 7:24-27

The Word Centered Life *Work These Words Into Your Life*

"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. "But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards."

MSG Matthew 7:24-27

The Word Centered Life *Follow Them*

"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. "But those who hear my instructions and ignore them are foolish, like a man who builds his house on sand. For when the rains and floods come, and storm winds beat against his house, it will fall with a mighty crash."

TLB Matthew 7:24-27

The Word Centered Life *Obeys Them*

"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. Everyone who hears my words and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. It rained hard, the floods came, and the winds blew and hit that house, and it fell with a big crash."

NCV Matthew 7:24-27

Puts Them Into Practice

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

The Word Centered Life – Matthew 7:24-27

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. 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 (NIV)

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. | 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 (NIV)

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

Lord, I will set apart a daily time and place to meet with you in your word. I will listen attentively to all that you have to say to me. I will not only listen, but I will put your word in practice so that I will have a rock-solid foundation for the entire course of my life. Amen

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

When are you setting apart a daily time and place to meet with God in His word?

Why will only hearing God's word never be enough to build a rock-solid foundation for your life?

When has failing to put God's word into practice caused a disastrous result in your life?

How are you both hearing and putting God's word into practice so your life will have a rock-solid foundation?

What are you doing differently because you have heard, and are putting God's into practice?

How is hearing and putting God's word into practice changing the entire course of your life?

How has hearing and putting God's word into practice helping you to withstand the storms of life?

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

Make hearing and putting God's word into practice the foundation of your life.

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

Have faith that hearing and putting God's word into practice will build a solid foundation for your life.

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

Share with another person or your small group how you are hearing and putting God's word into daily practice.

Close With Prayer:

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

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

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you hear and put God's word into practice so you will have a rock-solid foundation for your life.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will hear and put your word into practice.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I hear and put your word into practice today?
