



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

“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

Foundations of Faith

Growing up, were you one of those kids in Vacation Bible School who got all fired up when it came time to do the sing-alongs? You’re probably sitting there right now saying, “No.” Maybe you were that kid that came home and acted like the day was utterly brutal. Then in your room, when no one was around, you sang EVERY SONG! Yup, consider yourself busted. Totally.

One of my favorite songs is based on our reading for this week. The song was “The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock.” Remember it? It went like this:

*The wise man built his house upon the rock
The wise man built his house upon the rock
The wise man built his house upon the rock
And the rains came tumbling down!*

(By now I’m sure you’re doing or at least thinking of the hand motions, right?! Moving on...)

*The rains came down and the floods came up (repeat 2x)
And the house on the rock stood firm!*

*The foolish man built his house upon the sand (repeat 2x)
And the rains came tumbling down!*

The rains came down and the floods came up (repeat 2x)

(And then we come to my favorite part where all of the hyper kids like me made a pretty disgusting noise, or fell to the floor in a clump of splattness.)

And the house on the sand went SPLAT!

Already today you may be able to say, “That song was truer than I could ever have imagined!”

This month we focus on some parables of Jesus, and in all of them, we see a real man talking to real people about real issues. The first one reminds us that if we try to build our lives, our hopes, our dreams, our friendships, our grades, our whatever on anything *but* Jesus and his precious Word, we’re going to go splat. Maybe not right away, but eventually it all comes tumbling down. Maybe you’ve even experienced that already.



Foundations of Faith - continued

As you look at these verses again, did you notice that the wind, rain and storms came and blew against *both* houses? Jesus never said if they were shacks or castles. You can look in the mirror every day and consider yourself, your looks, your clothes, your life to be in the running with either one. A run-down shack with boards hanging from your roof, ready to fall off with any little gust. Or a confidence filled, “perfectly content with who you are” mighty castle, with soaring towers and a big draw bridge. To Christ it was never about what the house was made of, it was all about what the house was built *on*.

What a blessing to know that when The Builder looks at you he says, “You know what? That building is so precious to me, I think I’ll buy it with my life!” That’s what Jesus did.

Jesus died for your house—he died for your soul. By grace through faith, you are his forgiven child now, and he wants to build in you as you build on him!

So stay in the Word. It’s so hard, but God wants you there. When you are, you will be in a place where he will comfort you and keep you strong. Be in worship regularly, whether you like the music or not. Go to be fed with the Word of God. Eat it up like you did in preschool! Dine on forgiveness with your fellow believers as you enjoy the Lord’s Supper. Remember your baptism and your confirmation day!

Share the message of Christ with your friends, especially when the wind and waves of life are pounding them! They need you. God placed you in their lives to help keep them from going SPLAT! Oh, and sing. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord—make it about your Lord, and watch the blessings come up! They may not be what you expected, but they will be exactly what you need! Trust in the Rock. Trust Jesus who did more than just give you a foundation. He gave you his life on the cross, and took it back again on Easter to prove to you that he will never fail you!

God bless your week in him, and God bless your foundation, your faith, and your song!

Prayer: Jesus, help me to build in you and your Word. You are my Rock, my Redeemer, and the One who calms every storm and brings me through them safely. Help me remember your love this week and always. In Jesus name! Amen.