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BY FAITH

Building on a Solid Foundation

²⁴ “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.” ²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law. **Matthew 7:24-29 NLT**

- **Hearing is not enough; it takes following Jesus’ teachings.**

²² But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. **James 1:22 NLT**

- **Intellectual knowledge is not enough it takes faith and obedience.**

¹ Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. **Hebrews 11:1 NLT**

Many people believe that if you will simply believe the right set of facts about Jesus Christ, you get to go to heaven. If you believe that he is the perfect Son of God, if you believe that he died on the cross for the sins of the world, that if you believe he rose on the third day, if you can just believe those things you’re going to heaven.

- **It’s not enough to believe those facts just intellectually.**

¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. **James 2:19 NIV**

- I have to believe to the point of confession. Confessing my sin and need for a savior, seeing my sin as God sees it.
- I have to believe to the point of repentance. Repentance is a change of mind or the way we think. When we change the way we think, we change the way we live.
- Repentance is therefore a change of direction.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon once said, “The common temptation is, instead of really repenting, to talk about repentance; instead of heartily believing, to say, ‘I believe,’ without believing; instead of truly loving, to talk of love, without loving”.

- **Jesus is the cornerstone, the pattern we are to line up with. We are to live as Jesus did.**

¹ My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. ² He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world. ³ And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. ⁴ If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. ⁵ But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. ⁶ Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did. **1 John 2:1-6 NLT**

Whatever is important to Jesus becomes important to us.

- To love God and love people.
- To be about the Father’s Will.
- To focus on the Kingdom of God.
- To do ministry in Jesus’ name.
- To pray.
- To forgive.
- When we follow Jesus’ teaching, we take steps of faith that result in action that reveals our faith.
- We are not saved by works but our works reveal our salvation and glorify our Father in Heaven.

OUR OBEDIENCE TO JESUS’ TEACHINGS IS A FIRM FOUNDATION ON WHICH TO BUILD OUR LIVES.