

Subject: *How Firm a Foundation*

Scripture: *Psalm 119:89-104*

God's Word is the only solid foundation for our faith and our daily lives. *Psalms 11:3* *If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?* Having a solid foundation is a must for any nation, church, family, or individual person. At the end of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus used the illustration of the man who built his house on the sand and the man who built his house on a rock. Both houses looked good from the outside, but it was a different story when the storm came. The rain fell and the wind blew. The house on the sand collapsed, but the house on the rock stood firm. Psalm 119 describes a person who built his life on the solid foundation of God's Word. This psalm (song) reminds us of a great old hymn:

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

Why is God's Word a solid foundation? First and foremost, the Word has the same qualities of God Himself. God and His Word are not identical, but they are inseparable. We put our faith in God's Word because it is reliable and trustworthy, just like God Himself.

God's Word is eternal and unchangeable (vs. 89)

The Bible is not the book of the month or the book of the year. It's the book of the ages. It has never been amended or improved or changed in any way. God has inspired it and it remains the same forever. There are only two eternal things in the world: the Word of God and the souls of men.

Isaiah 40:7-8 ⁷ *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.* ⁸ *The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*

Matthew 5:18 *For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

God's Word is faithful (vs. 90-91)

The writer refers to God's faithfulness in creating and preserving the earth. Scripture says that He upholds all things by the word of His power. God operates the world by His physical laws which are His servants. These "laws of nature" as they are called, are very precise and predictable. Science is based on these laws. Chemistry, physics, and space research are all possible because of these physical laws, the laws of nature. It has been said that order is the first law of heaven. God also operates the world by spiritual laws, and these laws are very precise and predictable. There is the law of sin and death. There is the law of sowing and reaping. There is the law of repentance and forgiveness. There is the law of new life in Christ. ***Romans 8:2*** *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

God's Word is life-giving (vs. 92-93)

As we have seen already from the writer's testimony, he has suffered greatly, almost to the point of death. But God's Word has given him life and strength to go on.

God's Word is protective (vs. 94-95)

The psalmist sought God's precepts because his enemies sought him. God's Word was a shelter in the sense that it reminded him that God was protecting him. The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous run into it and we are safe.

God's Word is perfect (vs. 96)

All earthly things are limited and imperfect, but God's Word is perfect (complete and without anything missing) and His Word is exceeding broad (boundless, inexhaustible). Like God, His Word is a well that never runs dry or disappoints. The Bible is unusual because it is perfect for a new believer and a mature Christian. As someone put it, in the Bible you will find shallow water that a child can wade in and deep water that an elephant can swim in.

God's Word is desirable (vs. 97)

The psalmist often testified of his love for God's Word. No one had to force him to read it and think about it. He was captivated by it and thought about the Word all day long. We become attached to what we think about. Whatever gets your attention will get you. We become like what we think about. ***Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.* We're not going to find things like that in the world, but only in the Word. Meditating in God's Word is the key to spiritual blessing and prosperity (Ps. 1:1-3; Josh. 1:7-8).

God's Word is superior to earthly wisdom (vs. 98-100)

Knowing Scripture makes us wiser than our enemies, our teachers, and our elders. Notice that such wisdom comes not just from having the Bible, but making the Bible personal (vs. 98), meditating in it (vs. 99), and obeying it (vs. 100). God's wisdom is much higher than man's wisdom. ***Isaiah 55:9** For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.* God's wisdom is much different than worldly wisdom. ***James 3:13-18**¹³ Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.¹⁴ But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.¹⁵ This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.¹⁶ For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.¹⁸ And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.* As children grow up they usually learn how to be worldly wise. They learn how the world works and how to get along and get ahead. Children need to learn the wisdom of God's Word because it's so much better. Wisdom is skill for living a life that pleases God.

God's Word is holy (vs. 101-102, 104)

***John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.* God's Word is the believer's guidebook and map showing us how to navigate safely through this evil world. Someone asked the experienced captain of a large ship if he knew where the dangerous rocks were. He said, "No, but I do know where the deep water is." God's Word gives us discernment.

Proverbs 4:14-15 ¹⁴ *Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.* ¹⁵
Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

God's Word is completely satisfying (vs. 103)

Psalms 34:8 *O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*

An unnamed author wrote this wonderful tribute to the Scripture:

God's Word is the traveler's map, the pilot's compass, the pilgrim's staff, the soldier's sword, and the believer's log. The Bible contains light to direct you, comfort to console you, food to sustain you, wisdom to teach you, fire to warm you. The Book reveals the mind of God, the original state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners.

Its Author is God, its writers were men, it is infallibly inspired. It is given you in life, opened in judgment, and will endure forever. It's a mine of wealth, a river of pleasure, and a paradise of glory. God's glory is its end, the Lord Jesus Christ is its wonderful object, and our good its design.

Here Heaven opens, Paradise is restored, Hell's gates are disclosed. Its histories are true, its doctrines are holy, and its precepts binding. Read it thoughtfully, read it frequently and read it prayerfully. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy, memorize it to grow. It involves the highest responsibility, it will reward the greatest labor, it will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.