

LET GOD ARISE!

Like a Master Builder Prayer Guide #8

Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis



On the Word of God 2 Timothy 3.15-17

How Firm a Foundation

Variously attributed John Keene, Kirkham, and John Keith. Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787

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,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

In every condition, in sickness, in health;
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth;
At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea,
As thy days may demand, shall thy strength ever be.

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

Even down to old age all My people shall prove
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in My bosom be borne.

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

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Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis,
*(Ph.D., U of Iowa) is the
Director of World
Impact's Urban Ministry
Institute. He also serves
as World Impact's Vice
President of Leadership
Development.*

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The Power of the Word of God

The Word of God Outfits for Every Good Work

2 Tim. 3.14-17 - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it [15] and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

The Word of God Is Inspired by the Lord, the Holy Spirit

2 Pet. 1.19-21 - And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, [20] knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. [21] For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Sam. 23.2 - The Spirit of the Lord speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.

Mark 12.24 - Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?”

Mark 12.36 - David himself, in the Holy Spirit, declared, “The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.”

John 10.35 - If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken.

Acts 1.16 - “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.”



Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)

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The Word of God Provides Us with Endurance and Hope

Rom. 15.4 - For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Heb. 4.12 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Ps. 119.81-83 - My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word. [82] My eyes long for your promise; I ask, “When will you comfort me?” [83] For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten your statutes.

Heb. 6.10-19 - For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. [11] And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, [12] so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. [13] For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, [14] saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” [15] And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. [16] For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. [17] So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, [18] so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. [19] We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain.



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Heb. 10.35-36 - Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. [36] For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

James 5.7-8 - Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. [8] You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

1 Pet. 1.13 - Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Faith Comes by Hearing the Word of God

Rom. 10.14-17 - But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? [15] And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” [16] But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” [17] So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

1 Cor. 1.18-24 - For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. [19] For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” [20] Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? [21] For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. [22] For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, [23] but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,



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[24] but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Thess. 2.13 - And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

2 Thess. 2.13-14 - But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. [14] To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

James 1.18 - Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creation.

1 Pet. 1.23-25 - Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; [24] for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, [25] but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

The Word of God Profits the Life and Ministry of Christ’s Disciple

Ps. 19.7-11 - The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; [8] the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; [9] the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. [10] More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. [11] Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.



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Ps. 119.97-100 - Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. [98] Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. [99] I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. [100] I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

Ps. 119.130 - The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

Mic. 2.7 - Should this be said, O house of Jacob? Has the Lord grown impatient? Are these his deeds? Do not my words do good to him who walks uprightly?

Meditation on the Word of God Enriches Every Part of One's Life

Josh. 1.7-8 - Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. [8] This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Ps. 1.1-3 - Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; [2] but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. [3] He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

Ps. 104.34 - May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord.

Ps. 119.11 - I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.



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Ps. 119.15 - I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

Ps. 119.97-99 - Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. [98] Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. [99] I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.

1 Tim. 4.15 - Practice these things, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

Ps. 119.114 - You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.

Prov. 30.5 - Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

Obedience to the Word of God Brings Rich Blessing

Deut. 4.6 - Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."

Ps. 111.10 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

James 1.22-25 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. [23] For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. [24] For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. [25] But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.



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Ps. 19.11 - Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Ps. 106.3 - Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!

Ps. 119.2-3 - Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, [3] who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!

Luke 11.27-28 - As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” [28]But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

John 13.17 - If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

1 Cor. 15.58 - Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Rev. 14.13 - And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”

Build Your Life on the Rock, the Lord and His Word

Luke 6.46-49 - “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? [47] Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: [48] he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. [49] But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man



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who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

Deut. 32.31 - For their rock is not as our Rock; our enemies are by themselves.

1 Sam. 2.2 - There is none holy like the Lord; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

2 Sam. 22.2 - He said, “The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.”

2 Sam. 22.32 - “For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God?”

2 Sam. 22.47 - “The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation.”

Ps. 95.1 - Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Isa. 26.4 - Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

1 Pet. 2.4-6 - As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, [5] you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. [6] For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ■



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A Word That Cannot Be Moved

WHAT ARE you building your hopes on?

The recent collapse of the global financial system, and the corresponding billions of dollars lost to private and corporate investors, shareholders, and financiers demonstrates how tenuous our foundations are. So many of the financial planning corporations use the imagery of strength, stability, rock-solid foundations as the controlling image they hope to communicate. Prudential, for instance, sports a picture of the rock of Gibraltar to underwrite its motto and branding, it's "rock solid" imagery. Most companies assure us that whatever happens in this changing, chaotic, and strange world, they remain steadfast, unmovable, abounding in the work of the world to increase value and broaden assets.

Is this true?

In surveying life, we live in a time of profound instability: terrorism and its senseless unforeseen strikes of wanton violence, unstable financial markets, environmental upset and damage, the rise of petty dictators worldwide, the rampant suffering of the common folk due to job loss, lack of proper health care, stressed families, and shallow spirituality. This list, as impressively depressing as it is, represents only a sliver of the poignant and constant issues we confront today.

On every front we are nervous and melancholic, unable to find the kind of assurance that things will, after all the chaos and shakiness, turn out alright. What are we to think of the future, especially for our children, if the Lord tarries? In light of the instability, the uneasy sense that things are slip-sliding away, and the gnawing doubt that we don't know what to do about it—what shall we do?



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As a follower of Jesus of Nazareth, and one who holds to the teaching of his apostles and the prophets, I believe there is a foundation that we can build on that can provide confidence in place of doubt, joy in the place of gloom, and vision in the place of retreat. The answer is plain and simple, requiring no special knowledge or orientation, and is available to any and all who simply hear God's word and obey it. What is the answer to our run amok sense of trouble today? Simple faith on the Word of God.

The Scriptures are prodigal in their extravagant praise and promise for those who cling to and obey fully the Word of God. The Scriptures are inspired by God, profitable for instructing, correcting, rebuking, and grounding, providing the man and woman of God with every possible resource they need to carry out God's call efficiently and powerfully. Their meditation brings blessing, their obedience brings prosperity, and their delight brings joy. They cannot be broken, are forever settled in heaven, and every promise concerning them are "Yes!" and "Amen!" in Christ. Truly, the grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of our God abides forever (1 Pet. 1.25).

We Need to Rediscover the Power of the Word

If the Word of God is the ground of our hope and faith, and if it is accessible to who all who cling to Christ by faith, then why don't more of the rank-and-file Christian soldiers we know hold to it, this sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6.17)? There are many reasons, perhaps, for the drought of faith in many of our Christian communities, but one of the greatest reasons is our simple neglect of it. The Word of God will not yield to laziness, insolence, or neglect. Its choicest and richest blessings are reserved for those who long for, pine after, seek the Word of God with their whole hearts, who study it religiously and openly, who memorize it for the purpose of long, thoughtful hours of meditation and reflection, and whose will is set to carry it out to the letter. This kind of longing, this kind of building, this kind of seeking produces great results in the life of Christ's disciple:



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Prov. 2.1-11 - My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, [2] making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; [3] yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, [4] if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, [5] then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. [6] For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; [7] he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, [8] guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. [9] Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; [10] for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; [11] discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you.

This reveals the necessity of attentiveness, seeking, hungering, longing for the Word of God. Without these traits, the vast storehouse of blessing, insight, and goodness within Scripture will go unclaimed, unnoticed, and untouched.

As those who serve the Kingdom of God in the city, who are committed to evangelism and church planting in the most difficult communities perhaps on earth, we need the stability, strength, and endurance of the Word of God. We desperately need men and women who believe its promises, hold to its warnings, obey its commands, and proclaim its good news. The key for powerful, successful, and God-honoring ministry has been the same since the beginning. God's Word is the true proclamation of the narrative of the world, and outlines in depth the drama that lies at the heart of all history. What is the basic outline of this remarkable story?

Tell Me the Old, Old Story—in the Freshest Way You Can!

God, the Creator and Maker of all things, has covenanted to draw out of the earth a people for himself through the victory won through his Son on



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the Cross over the powers. There is only one place where the truth of that story is made plain for all to know and understand, the Scriptures of the Lord. The Word of God is a foundation laid for our faith, the excellent Word which testifies to God's active and effective working through history culminating in the incarnation, death, and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ. He has sent his Spirit into the world, who is gathering through Christ's messengers his people from the ends of the earth, and soon and very soon, he will return and complete the work he began on the Cross. What a story! What a Gospel! What a vision! What transcendent truth, and a reason to live!

During this year where we consider all analogies and metaphors of foundation and stability in the Scriptures, let us not neglect the Word as our foundation, the truth that marches on and stands firm (to mix a metaphor). This Word offers authoritative and final testimony regarding God's resolve to restore his creation under the reign of his Son, Jesus of Nazareth. Regardless of how things look, appear, or how they go, God is still on the throne, his truth still marches on, and his Word is the strong foundation of our faith and life.

This month, during this Season after Pentecost, let us embrace afresh this strengthening and empowering Word of the Spirit, and affirm with God that everything we need to accomplish our call is given to us in his excellent Word.

Do we know what we are building on? We certainly do!

*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,
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled? ■*



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The Season after Pentecost: Building on the Word of God

2 Tim. 3.14-17 - But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it [15] and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Ps. 119.99 - I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.

Matt. 4.4 - But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Biblical Principle of the Month

During this Season after Pentecost, let us reaffirm the treasure we find in the inspired Scriptures, the Word of God. Through the Holy Spirit who indwells us, we can now interpret and understand the Word of God concerning his work in Christ, and through faith and obedience in its promises and precepts, we can know and apply God's perfect will for our lives. In the face of the chaos, instability, and uncertainty of our times, we have God's sure and certain Word which never changes and cannot fail, which provides us with assurance and hope for our future, and the coming Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Truly, Jesus of Nazareth is the risen Lord and Messiah who reigns above as Victor and Conqueror. As we follow him and his Word, we will know the truth, and the truth will set us free—free to live and free to love others in his name.

Josh. 1.7-9 - Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good



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success wherever you go. [8] This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. [9] Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

John 8.31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, [32] and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 17.17 - Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

One Whose Life Was Shaped by the Word of God: Jeremiah

Jer. 15.15-16 - O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. [16] Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

Jer. 20.8-9 - For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, “Violence and destruction!” For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. [9] If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.



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