

**LET  
GOD  
ARISE!**

*Like a Master Builder  
Prayer Guide #9  
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis*



**Through the Obedience of Christ**  
Matthew 7.24-27

**Builed on the Rock**

*C. Rice*

I builed on the Rock, on the Rock of God,  
Builed on the Rock, Christ Jesus;  
I dug down deep and builed on the Rock,  
Builed on the Rock of God.

I hold not the Rock, but the Rock holds me,  
The Rock holds me, the Rock holds me;  
I rest on the Rock, and the Rock holds me,  
Resting on the Rock of God.

Why should I fear when the winds sweep by?  
Builed on the Rock, Christ Jesus;  
Or shaken be when the waves roll high?  
Builed on the Rock of God.

Hush, raging billows at His command,  
Builed on the Rock, Christ Jesus;  
Oh, peace be still 'neath His loving hand!  
Builed on the Rock of God.

Praise God for our foundation sure!  
Builed on the Rock, Christ Jesus;  
No storms can harm our home secure,  
Builed on the Rock of God.

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## ***Obedience to Christ: Our True Security and Protection***

### **Christ Jesus, the One True Foundation**

1 Cor. 3.10-11 - According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. [11] For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

### **Hearing and Doing the Words of Jesus Guards Us from Harm**

Matt. 7.24-27 - Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. [25] 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. [26] 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. [27] 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.

Matt. 7.7-8 - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. [8] For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Matt. 7.13-14 - Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. [14] For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Matt. 12.50 - For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.

Luke 6.47-49 - 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,



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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 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.

### **Obedience to Christ Brings Blessing, Expresses Love**

Luke 11.28 - 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.

John 14.15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

John 14.22-24 - Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” [23] Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. [24] Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.”

John 15.10 - If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

John 15.14 - You are my friends if you do what I command you.

Rom. 2.6-9 - He will render to each one according to his works: [7] to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; [8] but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. [9] There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek.



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Gal. 5.6-7 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. [7] You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

**You Will Reap What You Sow; Be Doers, Not Hearers Only**

Gal. 6.7-8 - Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. [8] For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

James 1.21-27 - Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. [22] 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. [26] If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. [27] Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

James 2.17-26 - So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. [18] But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. [19] You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! [20] Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? [21] Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? [22] You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; [23] and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed



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God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”— and he was called a friend of God. [24] You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. [25] And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? [26] For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

1 John 2.3 - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

1 John 3.22-24 - And whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. [23] And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. [24] Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

1 John 5.3-5 - For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. [4] For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith. [5] Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Rev. 22.14-15 - Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. [15] Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

### **The Wisdom of Obedience**

Job 28.28 - And he said to man, “Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.”



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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!

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

Prov. 12.28 - In the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.

Prov. 16.31 - Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.

Prov. 10.8 - The wise of heart will receive commandments, but a babbling fool will come to ruin.

Prov. 14.8 - The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deceiving.

2 Cor. 10.3-6 - For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. [4] For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. [5] We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, [6] being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

James 3.13-18 - Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. [14] But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. [15] This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. [16] For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. [17] But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full



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of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. [18] And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

### **The Testing of Your Faith Will Reveal Its True Character**

1 Cor. 3.13-15 - Each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. [14] If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. [15] If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

James 1.12 - Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

1 Pet. 1.7 - So that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

### **The Importance of Being Grounded in Christ and in Love**

Matt. 16.18 - And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Eph. 3.17 - so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love.

Col. 2.7 - rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

1 Pet. 1.5 - who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.



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1 John 2.19 - They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

### **The Tragedy of Disobedience**

Matt. 13.19-22 - When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. [20] As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, [21] yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. [22] As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

Heb. 10.26-31 - For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, [27] but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. [28] Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. [29] How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? [30] For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." [31] It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

2 Pet. 2.20-22 - For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. [21] For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. [22] What the true proverb says has



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happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”

### **Do the Will of God**

Matt. 7.21-23 - “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. [22] On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ [23] And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Matt. 12.50 - For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.

Matt. 21.29-31 - And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. [30] And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. [31] Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.”

Mark 3.35 - Whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.

Luke 11.28 - But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

John 6.40 - For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.



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John 7.17 - If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

Rom. 12.2 - Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Col. 4.12 - Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

1 Thess. 4.3 - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality.

1 Thess. 5.18 - Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Heb. 13.20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, [21] equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Pet. 2.15 - For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

1 Pet. 4.1-2 - Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, [2] so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.



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1 John 3.21-24 - Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; [22] and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. [23] And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. [24] Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him, and he in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us. ■

***“Don’t Build Your House on the Sandy Land!”***

**Out of the Mouth of Babes: Building on the Rock**

KAREN LAFFERTY wrote a song that made our whole inner city Bible youth club sing.

Back in 1981, Maranatha published an album that had songs that dealt with select themes of the Bible for children, and one of the songs was a song that became so omnipresent we wound up raising our children on it (or, rather, they played the song so many times that we nearly couldn’t take it anymore). The name of the song was *Sandy Land*. Here are the words to the song:

*Don’t build your house on the sandy land  
Don’t build it too near the shore  
Well, it might look kind of nice  
But you’ll have to build it twice  
Oh you’ll have to build your house once more  
You better build your house upon a Rock  
Make a good foundation on a solid spot  
Oh, the storms may come and go  
But the peace of God you will know*

*Rock of Ages cleft for me!  
Let me hide myself in thee!*



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After hearing this song played and sung some 20,000 times over a 10-month stretch, the words began to tattoo themselves on my heart, and their meaning began to impact my mind and perspective: “Don’t build your house on the sandy land, Don’t build it too near the shore! Well, it might look kind of nice, but you’ll have to build it twice, Oh, you’ll have to build your house once more!”

What Lafferty caught in a snappy little children’s tune is perhaps some of the best advice that could ever be given to millions of people today, i.e., those who build their entire life energies on shifting, vacillating, and uncertain ground.

### **Wise and Foolish Builders**

At the conclusion of his remarkable and moving Sermon on the Mount, the Lord ended his discourse by presenting his audience with two simple options in response to his teaching. Unlike so many who view this Sermon as masterful religious and ethical teaching, Jesus without equivocation suggested that those who had heard his teaching now would be responsible to either act or fail to act on his word, to either obey it (putting it into practice), or disobey it (ignoring the commanding force of his word for their lives). Those who had heard the master’s teaching would now have to make a choice regarding it; it is the truth of God, deserving their allegiance and obedience, or it is not the truth, neither worthy of their obedience or attention.

In crafting the response of the listeners, Jesus said that those who heard his teaching were like those who build, and, depending on their response, would build upon one of either of two different kinds of foundation. On the one hand, they could build on a foundation that Jesus compared to a rock, a stone, a strong foundation, and on the other hand, they could build on a foundation of sandy ground, shifting ground, or as Lafferty wrote, “Sandy Land.”



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All who heard would have to build. All who heard needed to choose where they would build their lives, how they would anchor their lives, how they would set themselves for the future. Those who obeyed his teaching, who heard his word and put it into practice, would be compared to those who built their lives on a rock, an unchanging and unyielding ground that could easily withstand the destructive and powerful elements of the pouring rain and howling winds. Regardless of the force of the rain and winds, those who obeyed Christ would be able to encounter and survive the worst that the elements cast against them. Obedience to the word and will of the living Christ provided truth that can stand the tests of time, and produce blessing, transformation, and strength.

In contradistinction to these, those who heard the words of the Master and ignored and disobeyed them, they built their house on a sandy foundation which could not possibly weather the damaging rains and winds sure to come upon their lives. Failing to base their hopes and lives on a foundation that would not shift and would never move, they would fall victim to the storm's fury and violence. Without the stability of a sure and certain ground, their house would be destroyed, blown to bits, a victim of an unstable and insecure foundation.

### **Get Right or Come Left**

These two ways of building Jesus defines as wise and foolish respectively, wise for those who through obedience built their house on a foundation, and foolish for those who through neglect and disobedience built their house on sandy and shifting ground. Over and over Jesus spoke of this dialectical and oppositional choice: There are two kinds of roads, one broad with a wide gate, leading to destruction, and one narrow with a small gate, leading to life (Matt. 7.13-14). There are only two kinds of trees, good trees that bear good fruit, and bad trees, that bear bad fruit (vv. 15-20). Now, he summarizes the choice before us all by asserting only two kinds of



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foundations and builders, those who build on a rock, and those who build on the sand (vv. 24-27).

The power of the Gospel is that it does not allow for vacillation, in-the-middle-ism, or any kind of compromise. You must determine if you will build your life on the Rock, not merely agree with its general principles and ideas. Obedience brings blessing, disobedience will bring destruction and misery. There truly is no middle ground.

### **Hear the Lord and Obey His Voice**

The beauty of our Lord's teaching is its unmistakable clarity and force. As spoken in the Sermon on the Plain, a homily similar in structure and content to the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says that affirming profession is simply not enough. Agreement at the concept level will not bring about revival and transformation in the inner cities of the world. Rather, we must go beyond merely reciting the words of Scripture, or showing affinity with the general tenor of the Bible by merely calling Jesus Lord, Lord (cf. Luke 6.46, Why do you call me "Lord, Lord," and not do what I tell you?). As 21st century disciples of Christ, we must do what he says. The Foundation must become more than a metaphor but a footing, more than symbol but rather a call, more than words but a charge to a life of submission and obedience.

Hear the words of the Master: Those who hear his words and keep them are like wise builders who construct their lives on a rock, and those who hear the same words and do not act on them are like foolish builders who build their lives on sand. The rock provides strength and security, the sand provides no support and invites destruction.

Everyone who has ever heard our Lord's word can be likened to a builder. Now, it is our time to hear his words afresh, and build. Lafferty's words turn out to be great advice not just for children in inner city Bible clubs, but fully grown adults figuring out what their lives actually mean at the adult,



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mature person level. Security or destruction, stability or shift—what will your choice be?

*Don't build your house on the sandy land  
Don't build it too near the shore  
Well it might look kind of nice  
But you'll have to build it twice  
Oh you'll have to build your house once more  
You better build your house upon a Rock  
Make a good foundation on a solid spot  
Oh the storms may come and go  
But the peace of God you will know*

*Rock of Ages cleft for me!  
Let me hide myself in thee! ■*

### **The Season after Pentecost: Through the Obedience of Christ**

*Matt. 7.24-27 - Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. [25] 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. [26] 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. [27] 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.*

### **Biblical Principle of the Month**

During this Season after Pentecost, we count ourselves among those who are wise builders, not merely confessing Jesus of Nazareth as the Foundation of God, but literally building on him through faithful submission and joyful obedience to his Word. Having heard his words, we now commit ourselves



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to obey them through the power of the Spirit, and so joyfully expect that he will sustain us through the certain and sure storms that hit every life and ministry. Let us affirm that the Lord who rose from the dead and who is Head of the Church will grant us the power to obey his Word, and so be sustained in the midst of an unwise and shifting world. This is the ground we build on for ministry and for life.

*Luke 6.47-48 - 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.*

*Isa. 28.16 - Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'"*

### **An Example of Building on the Foundation: Paul**

*1 Cor. 3.10-11 - According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. [11] For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*



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