

## 1. LIVE BEYOND GOOD INTENTIONS

- Hearing must result in doing.

**James 1:23-25** “Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.”

- We are to look intently at the Word -- Not forget it -- and then do it. When you get all three, that is when God’s blessing comes.
- Most of us have good intentions to put it into practice, but we JUST don’t. **Why?**

## 2. KNOW HOW OBEDIENCE IS PRODUCED

- *Obedience is produced when ... we learn to love and trust Jesus more than we love and trust the world around us.*

Remember: Rules without Relationship leads to Rebellion.

**John 14:23** “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word.”

**Exodus 14:12** “Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? **It would have been better for us** to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

- Jesus came to bridge the gap between His words and the practicing of them.

## 3. CHOOSE TO OBEY

- Obedience is the key to seeing our faith increase.
- Scripture teaches that obedience is a choice.

**Joshua 24:15** “If serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day who you will serve ... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

- As followers of Jesus, we don’t have the option *not* to obey.

When your moment of truth comes and your foundations are tested ~ what you do will reveal what you believe about God. At the **moment of truth**, will you find rock or sand? The choice of building materials is yours.

*You are at that moment of truth ~ will your foundation stand or fall?*

## “DIGGING DEEPER”

For personal or small group study

Week of July 27, 2008

**QUICK REVIEW:** Which point or scripture from Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:46-49 most challenged, confused, or caught your attention in this week’s message? Why?

### TODAY’S FOCUS

1. Discuss what you know about foundations in general ... the importance? the best materials? How can foundations be tested?
2. Jesus taught us to build the house of our life on the foundation made of rock and not of sand in Matthew 7:24-27. What did Christ mean when He said to build “on the rock?” What does it mean to build “on the sand?”
3. What are some sandy foundations you have seen people base their lives on? Why do you think anyone would choose to build their life on the sand?

### GETTING THE POINT

1. When crisis comes and our core foundations are tested, how do we know if we are actively building our house on the rock or the sand? What produces that moment of truth when you know? [Matthew 14:29-32; Genesis 22:2-12]
2. Read James 1:22-25. What does this teach us about the value of applying what we hear? Discuss the significance of putting into action what we study and learn in God’s Word?
3. How does obedience to God bring security to our lives?
4. What part does our love relationship with God play in our obedience? [John 14:23; 15:10-14; Deuteronomy 28: 1,8, 15, 20; Jeremiah 7:23; Luke 6:46]

### A LOOK INSIDE

1. How much does it cost to obey? Are you willing to pay the price and make the adjustments? [John 6:66; Exodus 5:1-21; 1 Corinthians 9:22]
2. It all comes down to our way (foundation of sand) and God’s way (foundation of rock). What does it require of us to choose the right way? How is our character formed in this process of building rightly?

# Welcome to New Life !

We are very pleased you are here. We sincerely hope you will be especially aware of God's presence as we worship. If this is your first time to worship with us, here is what you can expect:

## Worship in Singing & Giving

- We leave how to worship up to you as an individual. During **singing** worship, you are free to connect with God in whatever biblical way that expresses your heart's adoration. Some may remain seated, others stand, kneel, clap or lift their hands.
- If you would like to receive personal **prayer** during worship with singing, you may go to one of the Prayer Teams located at the back of the sanctuary.
- Invitation is given for **tithes and offerings**. If you are our guest, please do not feel obligated to contribute when God's tithes and offerings are received.

## Worship in Sharing God's Love

Expressions of greeting and God's love are extended to all, especially to our guests.

## Worship in Meditating on God's Word

Teaching from the Bible for about 35 minutes.

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We encourage you to use our **staffed Nursery** [which has a private nursing room] and **Children's Churches** during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the various rooms.

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## The Moment of Truth

*"Application! Application! Application!"*

Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:46-49

**FOCUS FOR THE DAY ...** *"Build your life on the rock of obedience"*

- **If our foundation is off ... we will be off.**
- **A foundation's value is determined *when it is tested*.**

**Matthew 7: 24-27** NIV "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."

**Luke 6:46-49** The Message "Why are you so polite with me, always saying 'Yes, sir,' and 'That's right, sir,' but never doing a thing I tell you? These words I speak to you are not mere additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. **They are foundation words, words to build a life on.** If you work the words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who dug deep and laid the foundation of his house on bedrock. When the river burst its banks and crashed against the house, nothing could shake it; it was built to last. But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a dumb carpenter who built a house but skipped the foundation. When the swollen river came crashing in, it collapsed like a house of cards. It was a total loss."

- **The bottom line is ... Rock or Sand?**  
"... each one should be careful how he builds." **1 Corinthians 3:10**
- **The foundation is everything.**

Words are not a substitute for obedience, and neither are religious works. We are to hear God's words and do them.

To build on the sand means to give Christ lip service, but not obey His will.

To build on the rock simply means to obey what God commands in His Word.

The sand is my way ... the rock is His way!  
**How then do we build our lives on the Rock?**