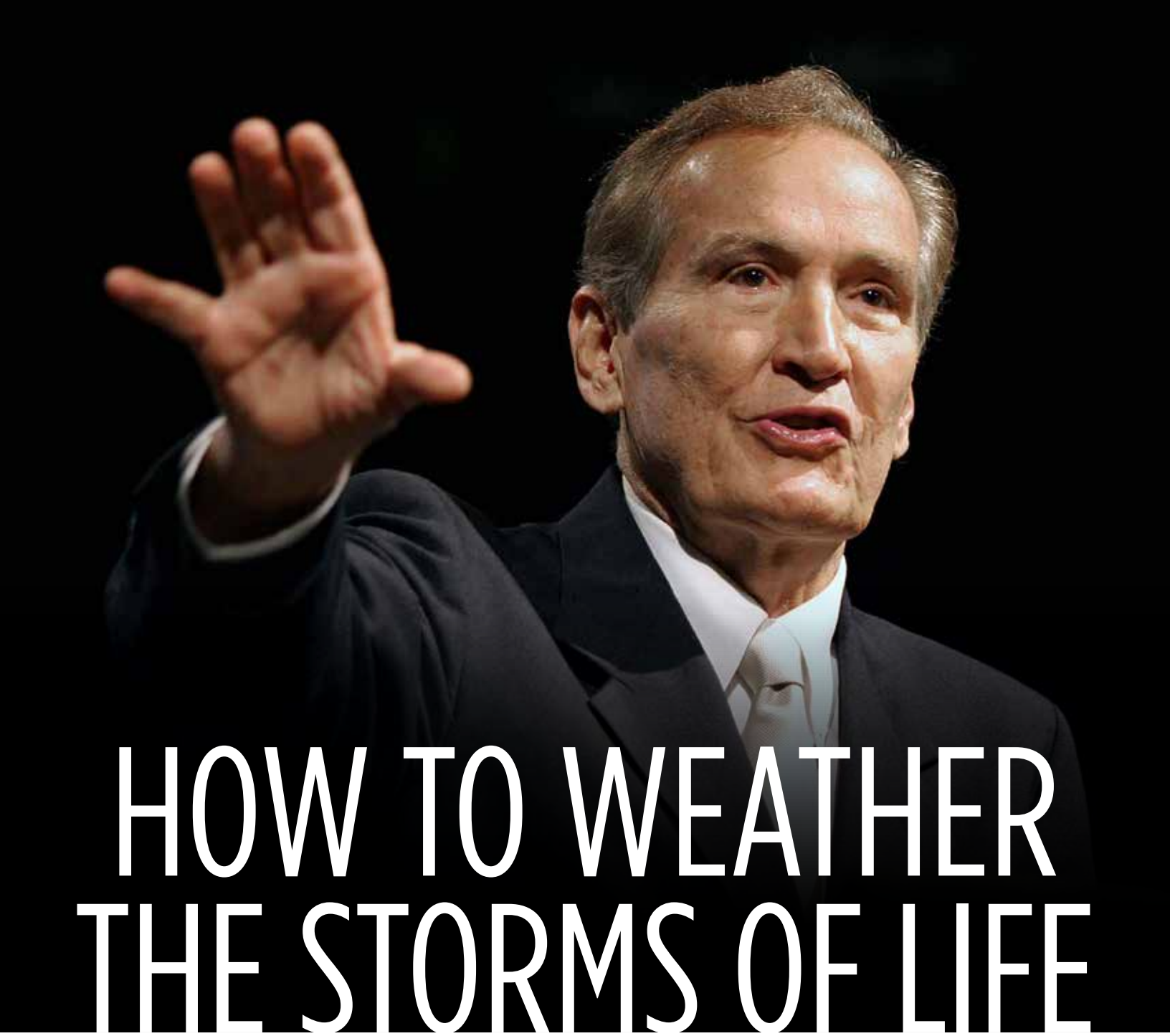

HOW TO WEATHER THE STORMS OF LIFE

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS

How to Weather the Storms of Life

ADRIAN ROGERS

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this transcript produced from a live sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This transcript is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

Note: Though it has been transcribed from a version used for broadcast, it may contain stutters, stammers, and other authentic remarks as would be common in a live setting.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright © 2026 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

Transcripts are used by permission of the Rogers Family Trust.

How to Weather the Storms of Life

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 7:24-27
LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1712

Life, in its very nature, is tragic; sooner or later, we all must weather the storms of life. The difference between a life built on the Word of God, and one that isn't, lies underground.

Before the bottom falls out of life, we must examine the foundation.

In Matthew 7, Jesus describes two houses: one built on a rock, and the other built on sand. We do not see the differences between the houses until the storm comes. The results remind us why we must build our lives on the solid rock of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 7:24 says, "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock..."

This passage reminds us to make sure our spiritual house is a sturdy building.

There are two things necessary to have a firm foundation: hearing and heeding to the Word of God.

The grace of God alone is what saves us; but someone who truly believes that will obey the Word of God. If they do not, their faith is a profitless profession and a barren belief.

Adrian Rogers says, "While we are saved by faith alone, the faith that saves is never alone."

Once we hear the Word, we must do what it says, otherwise, our faith is dead. (See James 1:22.) Living by the Word of God is what sets the rock-builders apart from the sand-builders.

After we've established a sturdy building, we must expect a stormy blast.

Matthew 7:25 says, "...and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."

Storms come to every life, saved or lost. But we must remember that God has not abandoned us in the storm. Remember Peter and Judas, two of Jesus' disciples? Both were entrusted with responsibilities in Jesus' ministry—but their differences run deep.

When the storm came, both disciples caved in different ways. However, Peter—despite his failings—had a foundation that Judas did not have. Peter experienced the steadfast blessing of a solid foundation: he was able to stand again.

Life Application
People cave in during life's storms when they don't have anything solid to stand on. Make certain that you have a rock-solid foundation for your faith.

How to Weather the Storms of Life

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 7:24-27
LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1712

1) INTRODUCTION
   a) We have a very serious problem today in what we call the Christian world.
      i) The problem is dropout disciples, collapsing Christians, and vanishing church members.
         (1) People who, when they should be standing up, are folding up.
         (2) They get baptized and come to church for a while; but when trouble, persecution, heartache, and temptation comes, they fall away.
            (a) They fizzle a little while, and then they are gone.
            (b) They are superficial saints.
   b) The reason they fall away is that they have no real foundation in their lives.
      i) When the storms come, they are blown away.
   c) Matthew 7:24-27
      i) "Great was the fall of it," means, "Tragic was the fall of it."
      ii) In this passage, Jesus is talking about building on a firm foundation.
   d) If the bottom has fallen out of your life, then go back and examine the foundation.
   e) For each of us, at some point, a storm is coming.
   f) There are three categories of people:
      i) Those who are just getting out of a storm.
      ii) Those in the midst of a storm.
      iii) Those who are getting ready to get into a storm.
   g) In today's message, we will look at three things that will help us to weather the storm.

2) WE NEED TO ERECT A STURDY BUILDING (MATTHEW 7:24, 26)
   a) Matthew 7:24
   b) We are all building some kind of a spiritual house.
      i) Nobody can live in someone else's spiritual house.
      ii) We will stand or fall in the house that we build.
   c) Jesus talks about two kinds of builders:
      i) A wise builder who built his house upon a rock.
         (1) Matthew 7:24
      ii) A foolish builder who built his house upon the sand.
         (1) Matthew 7:26
   d) In many ways, these two builders are very much alike.
      i) In this passage, Jesus is not talking about the out-and-out pagan, He is talking about two categories of persons who have heard His Word.
      ii) They both have the same basic purpose.
         (1) They are both house builders.
      iii) They are both building their houses in the same basic place.
         (1) The same storm that hit one also hit the other.
      iv) They both used the same basic plan.

(1) They had a floor, walls, and a roof.
(2) You can have different designs, but there is the same basic plan.

e) There was a vital difference in these two builders.
i) The difference was below the surface.
ii) The difference is not what we see when we look around, because it is in the foundation.
iii) The rock builder built his house upon the rock.
(1) Luke 6:48
(2) A house with a good foundation can withstand the storm.
iv) The sand builder built his house upon the sand.
(1) A house can be built more quickly if we don't bother with a foundation.
(a) It's easier, quicker, and less costly.
(b) Your house will look just as good as your neighbor's.

f) What makes a firm foundation? What is "building upon the rock"?
i) Matthew 7:24
(1) Two necessary things to have a firm foundation:
(a) Hearing the Word of God.
(i) "Whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine."
(ii) Romans 10:17
(b) Heeding the Word of God.
(i) "And doeth them."
(ii) This is what separates the rock builders from the sand builders.

g) James 1:22
i) James must have been thinking about what Jesus said in Matthew 7:24.
ii) Anyone is self-deceived who hears the Word of God, does not do the Word of God, but has the idea that he has done what he is supposed to do.
(1) It's like a person who goes to church and enjoys the message and the music, but there is no change in his lifestyle.
(2) That person is deceived; he is self-diluted.

h) James 2:14-26
i) This is one of the most controversial passages in Scripture.
ii) The Greek manuscript states verse 14 this way, "Can that faith save him?"
(1) This speaks of faith without works.

i) We are saved by grace through faith alone and not of works of any kind.
i) Titus 3:5
ii) Ephesians 2:8-9
iii) Romans 11:6
(1) Paul was saying that we cannot mix grace and works.
(2) Yet, James says that faith without works is dead.
(a) James 2:26

j) James and Paul were not having an argument; they were in agreement.
i) 2 Timothy 3:16
ii) They were talking about heads and tails of the same coin.
(1) This is what Jesus was talking about when He said, "Whosoever hears these saying of Mine, and does them, is like a wise man who built his house upon a rock."
(a) Matthew 7:24.

k) While we are saved by faith alone, the faith that saves is never alone.
l) The difference between what James and Paul said includes the following:
  i) Paul is talking about how to be justified in the sight of God.
  ii) James is talking about how to be justified in the sight of men.
    (1) James 2:18
      (a) You cannot see my heart; you can't see any faith in me; but God can see the faith in me.
      (b) The only way that we can know someone else's faith is by what we see in them.
  iii) Paul is talking about the root of our salvation.
    (1) James is talking about the fruit of our salvation.
  iv) Paul is talking about the foundation.
    (1) James is talking about the building.
  v) Paul is talking about the provision of our salvation.
    (1) James is talking about the proof.
  vi) Paul is talking about the marks.
    (1) James is talking about the means.
  vii) Paul is talking about a know-so salvation.
    (1) James is talking about a show-so salvation.
m) If we are truly saved, it is more than just mental assent or head belief.
n) Without true faith, what we say is just a profitless profession.
  i) James 2:14
  ii) It will take more than a pious platitude to get your soul into Heaven.
  iii) You say that you have faith, but do you have faith?
    (1) Has there been a radical, dramatic change in your life?
    (2) You may have profession without possession.
  iv) It is like saying to someone who is hungry and cold to go their way and be warm and full.
    (1) What good does that do if you don't give him some food and put clothes on him?
  v) What good is it to say that you know the Lord when you don't know Him?
o) Without true faith, it is a barren belief.
  i) James 2:18-19
    (1) The devil's demons in Hell are very orthodox.
      (a) They tremble before the Lord.
    (2) The word "tremble" in this passage actually means to make the hair stand up on the back of the neck.
      (a) They tremble at the very thought of one God.
    (3) Jesus has authority over all of the demons.
  ii) Many people think that just because they have a mental assent to the facts of the Gospel and because they are working in the church that they will go to Heaven.
    (1) But they have no more faith than the devil himself.
    (2) They have never surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
      (a) Matthew 7:21
        (i) He is not talking here about a works salvation.
  iii) We must surrender our lives totally to the Lord Jesus Christ, or else our belief is a barren belief.
p) James gives two examples and one illustration:
  i) James 2:21
    (1) When was Abraham counted righteous?

(a) Abraham offered Isaac upon the altar in Genesis 22.
(b) In Genesis 15, the Bible says that Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness.
(i) Genesis 15:6
(2) What happened in Genesis 15 when Abraham believed God was seen over 30 years later in Genesis 22 when he offered up Isaac.
(a) This is what Paul was talking about.
(i) Abraham truly believed God, and it was made evident in Genesis 22.
(3) Don't say that you are saved and that you love God if you are not living by the Word of God.
(a) Matthew 7:21
ii) James 2:25
(1) James is talking about being seen before men.
(a) No one could see Rahab's heart.
(2) Rahab was a harlot in the Old Testament who was saved.
(a) Her life was so changed that she married a prince of Israel and became the great-great-grandmother of King David.
(b) She was in the house and lineage of the Lord Jesus Christ.
(3) If your religion has not changed your life, then you better change your religion.
(4) Just hearing the Word of God does not save.
(a) It is faith.
iii) James gives a classic illustration in James 2:26.
(1) What good are theological facts without life?
(2) It's not works that make a body alive; it is life that enables us to do those works.
(a) You cannot make a body alive by manipulating the body.
(i) That doesn't give life.
(b) It is life that gives the works.

q) If you would be a rock builder, then you must hear the Word of God and heed the Word of God.
i) James 1:22

r) There are millions of people who trudge to churches on Sunday, listen to sermons, and who are going to die and go to Hell.
i) Because there has never been a change in their lives.

s) Matthew 7:24
i) If you would weather the storm, then you must erect a sturdy building.

3) WE CAN EXPECT A STORMY BLAST (MATTHEW 7:25, 27)

a) The storm fell upon both houses.
i) Matthew 7:25
ii) Matthew 7:27

b) When we are saved, it doesn't mean that there will be no storms in our lives.
i) There will be storms.

c) Matthew 7:25
i) The rain came down.
(1) That is pressure from above.
ii) The floods came up.
(1) That is pressure from beneath.

iii) The wind blew.
(1) That is pressure all around.
d) Job 14:1
e) Storms come to every life, whether they are saved (built on the rock) or lost (built on the sand).
f) The storm will show whether or not you have a foundation.
i) The storm will test your faith.
(1) The faith that cannot be tested is a faith that cannot be trusted.
g) Don't get the idea that when you are saved there will be no more trouble or difficulty.
h) If we get our theology from circumstances rather than from the Word of God, then we will get the idea that God doesn't love us.
i) There will be sickness, suffering, persecution, heartache, and difficulty.
(1) Romans 8:35-37
ii) Difficulty in our lives does not mean that God has abandoned us.
(1) Hebrews 13:5

4) WE CAN EXPERIENCE A STEADFAST BLESSING (MATTHEW 7:24-25)

a) Matthew 7:24-25
i) Luke says that it beat vehemently upon the house.
(1) But it fell not, for it was founded upon the rock.
(a) Luke 6:48
b) Why do some people fold up, cave in, and then are blown away?
i) Because they have built upon the shifting sand of good intention.
ii) They have built upon the silt and muck of religious activity.
iii) They have never built upon the solid rock of the Lord Jesus Christ.
(1) 1 Corinthians 3:11
iv) 1 John 2:19
v) This is not talking about sinless perfection.
(1) This does not mean that we won't have doubts when the storms come.
(a) We will have doubts.
(b) We may stumble.
c) When Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount about two kinds of builders, most likely Peter and Judas were both there.
i) They both heard what Jesus said in Matthew 7:24-27.
d) Peter and Judas were two kinds of builders; they both erected a spiritual house.
i) Judas' house:
(1) Judas was the best man outwardly.
(a) He had the prettiest house.
(2) Judas was made the treasurer.
(a) The most trustworthy person was made the treasurer.
(3) When Jesus said that someone would betray Him, no one said that it would be Judas.
(a) They all said, "I wonder if it is me?"
(i) Matthew 26:21-22
(4) Judas had a good-looking house.
ii) Peter's house:
(1) Matthew 16:15-18

(2) Peter was weak just like we are.
(3) He wasn't much of a house builder, but he had a good foundation.
(4) He laid his faith on a firm foundation.

e) A storm came, and it blew through the life of Judas and through the life of Peter.
i) When the storm was over, Judas' house was gone.
(1) Judas died and went to Hell.
(a) Judas didn't lose his salvation.
(i) He never had it.
1. John 6:70
2. John 6:64
(b) Judas never had real faith.
ii) Simon Peter did have real faith.
(1) Luke 22:31-32
(a) The Savior interceded for him.
(2) When the storm hit Peter, a few windows were broken out, and some shingles blew off the roof.
(a) But he was still standing.
(3) Peter became the flaming apostle of Pentecost because he had the real thing.
(a) He knew God.
(b) He had heard the Word of God.
(c) He believed the Son of God.
(d) He bowed his knee to Jesus Christ.
(4) Yes, Peter was weak and failing.
(a) But the house stood that was built upon the rock.

5) CONCLUSION

a) Can you say that your hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness?
i) Do you stand on Christ the Solid Rock?
(1) All other ground is sinking sand.
b) There are thousands of people in churches today that when the storms hit, they will be gone.
i) When the storm comes, rather than standing up, they will fold up.
(1) They don't have a foundation.
c) The storm will come.
i) Make certain that you have a sure foundation.
(1) When the bottom falls out, examine the foundation.
(2) 1 Corinthians 3:12
d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
i) Romans 3:23
ii) Romans 10:9-10
iii) Romans 10:13
iv) Acts 16:31
v) John 3:16

How to Weather the Storms of Life

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 7:24-27
LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1712

Would you take God's Word, and be finding the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 7. And were coming almost to the end of this great, great passage that we call, the "Sermon on the Mount". Now, before I read this Scripture, we'll begin in verse 24 in just a moment, let me tell you this, that we have a very, very, very serious problem in today's world, in what we call the Christian World. And the problem is dropout disciples, collapsing Christians, vanishing church members. People who, when they ought to be standing up, are folding up. They get baptized, they come to church for a while, and then trouble, persecution, heartache, temptation comes, and they fall away. I call them, Alka-Seltzer Christians. You drop them in water, they fizzle a little while, and then they're gone.

You know folks like this? I think there are many like this. They are superficial saints. And the reason they fall away, the reason they cannot stand is they have no real foundation in their lives. And when the storms come they are blown away. Now that's what Jesus Christ is talking about right here. Many of us know people that will come to mind when I read this Scripture. And many of you may be here today and you have no real foundation, you think everything is fine, but when the storm comes, you'll be gone too, because you don't have a foundation.

I want you to listen to this. Jesus says in Matthew 7 verses 24 through 27, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a," R-O-C-K, "rock." He built his house upon a rock. "And the rain descended, and the floods came. And the winds blew." But what happened? Look at it again, "And they beat upon that house;" but it didn't fall, "it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock." Now look in verse 26, "And every one that heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell and great was the fall of it." That means, and tragic was the fall of it. Now, that's the passage that we have before us today, and what a pertinent passage it is.

Jesus here is talking about building on a firm foundation. And friend, if the bottom has fallen out of your life, you had better go back and examine the foundation. There was something wrong with the foundation. Now if you would learn how to weather the storm, and by the way, the storm is coming. There are three categories here today, those who are just getting out of the storm, those in the midst of the storm, and those who are getting ready to get in a storm. Alright? The storm is coming. Now if you would weather the storm, there're three things I want to lay on your heart out of this passage of Scripture. The very first is this, that **you need to erect a sturdy building**. Now our Lord says that we're all building a house, our lives are like a house. "Whosoever heareth these things of Mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon a rock." Now, you are all building some kind of a spiritual house. Everybody is. I cannot live in the house that you build. You cannot live in the house I build. I am stuck with the house that I build and I will stand or fall in the house that I build.

Now, our Lord here is talking about two kinds of builders. In verse 24, He talks about a wise builder who builds his house upon a rock. And in verse 26, He talks about a foolish builder who built his house upon the

sand. Now, wait a minute. In many ways these two builders are very much alike. The Lord in this passage is not talking about the out and out pagan, He's talking about two categories of persons who have heard His Word. Two so-called followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, notice the similarities. They both have the same basic purpose; they're both house builders. As a matter of fact, they're both building their houses in the same basic place, because the same storm that hit one, hit the other. And they probably all used the same basic plan. I mean, when you build a house, there's the floor, the walls, the roof, well you can have different designs, but there's the same basic plan. And when I look out at this congregation, you're all very similar. You're all in church, all hearing the Word of God, all saying we want to succeed in life. We have the same basic purpose, we're in the same basic place. We have the same basic plan. But there was a vital, vital difference in these two. But the difference was below the surface. And there's a difference in this congregation today. The difference is not what we see when we look around; the difference is in the foundation.

There was the rock builder first of all. The rock builder. He built his house upon the sand. Luke says in Luke chapter 6 and verse 48, when Luke reported this, he adds something that Jesus said, that, "the builder dug deep, he dug deep and laid the foundation upon a rock." You know that a house with a good foundation can stand the storm. But then he said there was another man, this was the sand builder. Now, you can build a house more quickly if you don't bother with a foundation. And just go out to a sandy lot and begin to build. Pour the slab, or lay the joist on the ground. Put down a base. Build the walls. Put the roof on. Hey, that's easier. That's quicker. That's less costly. And your house will look just as good as your neighbor's. As a matter of fact, if you're wise, you can take some of your money, not wise, but crafty, you can take some of the money that you would have put in the foundation and maybe put a little more gingerbread on your house. Now these are the two kinds of builders. Very, very similar, and yet vitally different.

Now what makes a firm foundation? What is building on the rock? Jesus makes it very clear, look in Matthew 7 verse 24, whosoever, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, that built his house on a rock." There're two things necessary to have a firm foundation. What two things make the rock? Well, first of all, hearing the Word of God. Jesus said, "Whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine." Now, that's what we're doing today, we're listening to the Word of God. Because the Bible says in Romans chapter 10 verse 17, that, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." So, that's part of having a rock foundation for your life. You must hear the Word of God. "Whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine." But that's only half of it. Now, look very carefully in verse 24. It is both hearing and heeding, the Word of God. "Whosoever heareth these words of Mine," and what's that next word? "And doeth them." And doeth them. And that's where we begin to separate the rock builders from the sand builders.

Now one of those who must have been there to hear Jesus give this sermon, was a man named James. And I don't think that James ever forgot it. I want you to see what James had to say. Just put your bookmark there in Matthew 7, and turn with me to James chapter 1. Just fast forward on through. I'm going through Philemon and Hebrews and just keep on going and there you come to James. Right after Hebrews. Now remember, James heard Jesus say that it is the man who hears the Word of God and does the Word of God, whose life is built on a firm foundation. And notice what James says in James chapter 1 and verse 22, "Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." I believe that James was thinking about what Jesus said in Matthew chapter 7, right here. "Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only." Because

any man is self-deceived who comes to church and hears the Word of God, does not do the Word of God, and has the idea that he's done what he's supposed to do.

You know, it's like a person who would come to church and they would say, "You know, I enjoyed the message. Oh, the music, the music was wonderful." But then there is no change whatsoever in their lifestyle, in the way they live. James said, that man, is deceived and he has deceived himself. He is self-diluted. "Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." Jesus said, "Whosoever hears this Word and does it."

Now, let's just stay with James for a moment. I want you to go to James chapter 2, and I'm going to read an extended passage of Scripture. And it is one of the most controversial passages in Scripture in all of the Bible. But I am totally convinced that what I'm about to read this morning is the message that most churches in America need. I want you to listen to it. And many Baptist Churches need this. Here's James. James is very straightforward. He says, "If you are a hearer of the Word and you're not a doer, you're deceived."

And then he asks a question in James chapter 2 verse 14 through 26, "What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and hath not works? Can faith save him?" Now, the Greek manuscript would give it this way, "Can that faith save him?" That is, faith without works. "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled;' not withstanding you give them not those things which are needful to the body; what good does it do? What doth it profit? Even so, faith, if it hath not works is," D-E-A-D, "dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, 'Thou hast faith and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works. Thou believest there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.'" That's more than some folks do. "But wilt thou know, oh vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, 'Abraham believed God, and it was imputed to him for righteousness: and he was called the friend of God.' Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the Harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." I wanted to read the whole passage. I didn't want to leave anything out.

Now, what is all of this talking about? I want to make this abundantly clear, and I want every human being, every mother's child in this congregation or those who may be listening by television, or radio, or tape; I want to make this absolutely totally clear. You are saved by grace through faith alone and not of works of any kind. Now, I want that to be very, very clear. Titus 3:5, "It is not by works of righteousness that we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us." The Bible says in Ephesians 2 verses 8 and 9, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." And Paul said in Romans 11:6, and I love this, he says, "And if by grace, it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. And if by works, it is no more grace, otherwise work is no more work." Sounds like some sort of a little conundrum, a little riddle. Well, what's he saying? He said, "You can't mix grace and works." You just have to make up your mind. Either you're saved by the grace of God, or you're saved by self-effort. But yet here comes James, and James says, that, "Faith without works is dead."

Now, are James and Paul having an argument? No. They are in agreement. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. What James and Paul are talking about are heads and tails of the same coin, and they are

exactly what Jesus is talking about when He says, "Whosoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, is like a wise man, that built his house upon a rock." Now we need to understand this. While we are saved by faith alone, the faith that saves is never alone. Did that get through? While we are saved by faith alone, the faith that saves is never alone.

Now, the difference between James and Paul is talking about how it could be justified in the sight of God, but James is talking about how to be justified in the sight of men. Look in James 2 verse 18, "Yea, a man may say, 'Thou hast faith and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, I will show thee my faith by my works.'" You can't see my heart. You can't see any faith in me. God can see it but you can't see it. The only way you can know my faith is what you see in me. Paul is talking about being justified before God, James is talking about being justified before men. Paul is talking about the root of our salvation, James is talking about the fruit of our salvation. Paul is talking about the foundation, James is talking about the building. Paul is talking about the provision of our salvation, James is talking about the proof. Paul is talking about the marks, James is talking about the means. Paul is talking about a know-so salvation, James is talking about a show-so salvation. They're all the same.

What James is saying is, that if you're truly saved, if you're truly saved, it is more than just mental ascent. It is more than just head belief. Now, he says in James 2 verse 14, that without true faith, what you say is just a profitless profession. Look if you will in verse 14, "What doeth it profit, my brethren, for a man say he has faith, and hath not works? Can that faith save him?" Friend, it will take more than a pious platitude to get your soul to Heaven.

I asked sometime at the end of the service, "How many of you are certain that if you died that you'd go to Heaven?" And you lift your hand. You say you have faith. But do you have faith? Has there been a radical dramatic change in your life? You may have profession without possession. James said it's like saying to a man who's hungry and cold, "Well, go your way, be warm, be full." James says, "What good does that do if you don't give him some food, you don't put some clothes on him?" And what good does just saying, "I know the Lord", when you don't know Him? It is a profitless profession.

He says it is a barren belief, look in James 2 verses 18 and 19, "Yea, a man may say, 'Thou hast faith and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, I will show thee my faith by my works." And then here's the illustration. "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well." If I were to ask in this congregation, "How many people believe that there's one God?" You say, "Oh I believe there's one God, yes." James says, "Well, you get an A, that's good, you passed the test." But he said, "I want to tell you something else, the devils, the demons also believe and tremble." Did you know that the devils, the demons in Hell are very orthodox? They're not unorthodox. They believe more than some theological professors believe. You read where the demons cower before the Lord; they tremble. This word tremble actually means to make the hair stand up on the back of their neck. They tremble at the very thought of one God. Jesus has authority over all of the demons.

Suppose the devil were to walk down this aisle this morning to join this church. And so somebody sits down, says, "Well now, Mr. Devil, we want to know are you orthodox or not? Do you believe in one God?" "Oh yes." "Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?" "Oh yes." "Do you believe He was born of a virgin?" "Oh yes." "Do you believe He died on the cross?" "Certainly do." "Do you believe He walked out of the grave?" "Yes sir. I believe that." "Well, you check out pretty good there devil."

"Well, now, another thing devil, I want to ask you a question. You're going to come to the Bellevue Baptist Church, you're not just going to be just a Sunday Morning pew warmer, are you? You're going to be." "Oh no, no, no, no. I'll be glad to do anything you ask me to do. I'll be an usher. I'll sing in the choir if you want me to. I'll be glad to preach. I'd be glad to get in that organization and work." "But one more thing devil, we want to ask you, are you willing to bow your knee to the Lordship of Jesus Christ?" "No! I'll not do that!" And he will not do that. And there're many people who think just because they have a mental assent to the facts of the Gospel and just because they're working in the church some way that they're going to Heaven, and they have no more faith than the devil himself because they have never, ever surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "Not everyone that saith unto Me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven;" that's verse 21, "but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in Heaven." He is not talking here about a works salvation. But He is saying friend, that we must surrender our lives totally to the Lord Jesus Christ or else our belief is a barren belief.

Now, James makes it very clear, he gives two examples and one illustration and I want you to see this. Look in James 2 verse 21, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?" Now, wait a minute, if you know your Bible history, when was Abraham counted righteous? Well, he offered Isaac upon the altar in Genesis chapter 22. But in Genesis chapter 15, the Bible says that Abraham believed God and was counted to him for righteousness. What's the difference? What happened in Genesis 15, when Abraham believed God, was seen over here thirty years later in Genesis 22 when he offered up Isaac. That's what Paul is talking about over here, Abraham truly believed God, and it showed up over here.

Don't tell me friend, don't tell me that you are saved and you love God, if you're not living by the Word of God. Jesus Christ said in Luke 6:46, "Why call ye Me 'Lord, Lord' and do not the things that I say?" And then He gives another illustration in James 2:25, "Was not Rahab the Harlot justified by works when she hid the spies?" Remember James is talking about being seen before men. You couldn't see Rahab's heart. But let me tell you what happened to Rahab. Rahab was a harlot in the Old Testament who got saved and her life was so changed, that she married a prince of Israel, became the great-great-grandmother of King David, and is in the house and lineage of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Her life was changed. Now, some who are members of churches, are still living like a harlot. And you're going to die and split Hell wide open. Listen, if your religion has not changed your life, you better change your religion. Just simply saying, "I believe." Just hearing the Word of God. That does not save. It is faith.

And then he gives the classic illustration. He gives two examples. And then here's the illustration, look at it in James 2 verse 26, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." Now, let's get a cadaver up here, a body up here and look at it. Maybe we'll do an autopsy on it. There it is. Well, say, "What a wonderful piece of machinery that is. What a wonderful specimen of anatomy that is." And we can get our pad and we say, "There are the lungs. There's the liver. There's the heart. There's the esophagus. Here's the stomach. Here are the intestines. There's the spleen." All of those are facts. But the body is dead. What good are theological facts, without life? "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead."

Now, it's not works that make a body alive; it is life that enables you to do those works. Do you see the difference? You can't make a body alive by manipulating the body. That doesn't give life. It is life that gives

the works. There's no contradiction. What we're saying is this, that if you would be a rock builder, you must hear the Word of God and heed the Word of God. "Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only."

There are millions of people who're trudging to churches on Sunday, listening to sermons, and they're going to die and go to Hell, because there's never been a change in their life. And some are in this congregation this morning. And it'll blow right past you. Jesus said in Matthew 7:24, "Whosoever heareth these words of Mine, and does them, he's like a man that built his house upon a rock." So the very first thing I want you to see, listen to me, if you would weather the storm, you must erect a sturdy building.

Now, let's move to the second point very quickly. Not only must you erect a sturdy building, that's one that has a firm foundation. But after you erect a sturdy building, **you can expect a stormy blas**t. A sturdy building, a stormy blast; it is coming. Go back now to our passage of Scripture there that we're looking at in Matthew chapter 7 and see what our Lord says. And we need to understand this, children of God, you need to understand this. Listen very carefully, Jesus says that the storm fell upon both houses. In verse 25, "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house." Which house? The house built upon a rock. Verse 27, "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house." What house? The house on the sand.

Now, when you get saved, does that mean there're going to be no storms in your life? There will be storms. The rain comes down. That's pressure from above. The floods come up. That's pressure from beneath. The wind blows. That's pressure all around. "Man that is born of woman is full of trouble." Job 14:1. Storms come to every life saved or lost. Built on the rock, or built on the sand. I can tell you from the authority of the Word of God, you are going into storms, and you know what the storm is going to do? The storm is going to show whether or not you have a foundation; that's all it's going to do. The storm is going to test your faith. And the faith that cannot be tested, is a faith that cannot be trusted.

Don't get the idea that simply when you get saved, that there's going to be no more trouble, no more difficulty; the storms are going to come. And if you get your theology from circumstances rather than from the Word of God, you're going to get the idea that God doesn't love you. Let me tell you friend, storms are going to come. There's going to be sickness, there's going to be suffering, there's going to be persecution, there's going to be heartache, there's going to be difficulty, but these things cannot separate a man whose life is built on the rock.

Romans 8 verses 35 and following, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Nay, in all these things," not in the absence of these things, but, "in all of these things," in the eye of the storm, "we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us." And difficulty in your life does not mean that God has abandoned you. It does not mean that. He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Hebrews 13 verse 5.

What am I saying? You must erect, my dear friend, a very stable, a very secure, a very strong building. You must do that. And then you must expect a stormy blast. And then **you can experience the steadfast blessing**. Notice again what Jesus says. Jesus says here in Matthew 7 verses 24 and 25, "And whosoever heareth these things of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house," Luke says it beat vehemently upon the house, "But it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock."

Why do some people fold up? Why do some people cave in? Why are some just blown away? I'll tell you why. They have built upon the shifting sand of good intention. They have built upon the silt and the muck of religious activity. But they have never built upon the Lord Jesus Christ, where the Bible says in First Corinthians 3:11, "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is the Lord Jesus Christ." You say, "Pastor, I know one of the finest families in our church. They used to serve God, but difficulty came. And we don't see them anymore. But they were such a fine family, Pastor." Yes, beautiful house. Well furnished, well painted, well designed, and that was a wonderful family living in that spiritual house; but it had no foundation. John says in First John 2 verse 19, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, no doubt they would have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

I'm not talking to you about sinless perfection. I'm not saying that if you get saved and give your heart to Jesus, and the storms come, that you won't have some doubts; you will. I'm not saying that you won't stumble; you may. I'm not saying that you might not have a relapse; you might have a relapse. You know standing in the crowd when Jesus gave this Sermon on the Mount, about two kinds of builders, you know who was there, most likely? A man named Simon Peter, and a man named Judas. They were both there. And as we read in Matthew chapter 7 and verses 24 through 27, they heard Jesus say, "Whosoever heareth these things of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, that builds his house on a rock. The winds, the rains, the floods came. Beat upon the house, but it stood." Then they heard Jesus say, "But a foolish man, is like a man that built his house on the sand. The winds, the rains, the floods came. And the house fell, and tragic, great, was the fall of it."

Judas was there, and Simon Peter was there. Two kinds of builders, very similar. They both erected a spiritual house. Peter built one, and Judas built one. And had you looked at the two houses, you know what you would have said? You would have said, "Judas can build a better house than Simon Peter." Do you know who was the best man outwardly? Do you know who had the prettiest house? Not Peter; Judas had the best looking house. He did didn't he? Do you know what they did with Judas? They made Judas the treasurer. Now, who do you get for the treasurer? The best. I mean the most trustworthy. When Jesus said, "One of you is going to betray Me." Not a one of them said, "Oh I know who it is, it's that rascal Judas." Not a one of them said that, they said, "I wonder if it's me?" None of them said, "I know its Judas," not a one. You know why? He had a good looking house. I mean a good looking house. He knew how to build a house, almost.

But there was a difference. Ole Simon Peter, bless his heart. Look at Matthew chapter 16 and verses 15 through 18, "Jesus said, 'Peter, who do you say that I am?' And Peter said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus said, 'That's right. And upon this rock, I'll build My house. I'll build My church. The very gates of Hell will not prevail against it.'" Peter knew that. Peter was weak, just like I am, and like you are. He wasn't much of a house builder, but boy did he have a good foundation. Did he have a good foundation! He laid his faith on a firm foundation. And I want to tell you that a storm came and it blew through the life of Judas, and a storm came and it blew through the life of Simon Peter. And when the storm was over, Judas' house was gone. It was gone. And Judas died and went to Hell. You say, "Did Judas lose his salvation?" He never had it. The Bible says in John 6 verse 70, Jesus speaking of Judas, "Have I not chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?" The Bible says in John 6:64, that, "Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not." Judas never ever had real faith.

Simon Peter did. In Luke 22 verses 31 and 32, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, Satan has desired you, that he can sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for you that your faith will not fail." He had faith, and the Savior interceded for him. You know when the storm hit ole Simon, a few windows were broken out, did you know that? And some shingles blew off the roof. And some things happened to that house. But I want to tell you something, after the storm, he was still standing. And became the flaming Apostle of Pentecost. And you know why? I'll tell you why. He had the real thing. He had the real thing. He knew God! He'd heard the Word of God, he believed the Son of God, he'd bowed his knee to Jesus Christ! Weak, yes! Failing, yes! But the house stood that was built on a rock. I wonder if you can say, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness. On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

You listen to this Pastor, there are thousands of people in churches today when the storms hit, they'll be gone, some of them in this building today. When the storm comes, rather than standing up, you will fold up. And I'll tell you why, you don't have a foundation. And the storm is going to come. For all of us; not some, all of us. And you'd better make certain that you have a sure foundation. And when the bottom falls out, just examine the foundation. "Other foundation can no man lay, than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Let's bow our heads in prayer. Heads are bowed, eyes are closed. Do you know Jesus Christ? I'm not asking do you attend church on Sunday morning. Some people believe they do God a wild favor when they come to church on Sunday morning. I'm not asking that. Jesus said, "Everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, he is the wise man, that built his house upon a rock." Do you know Jesus? Are you truly saved? Today, you can pray a prayer like this and Jesus will save you. You're not saved by joining a church; anybody's church. You're not saved by giving your money, you're not saved by keeping the Ten Commandments, obeying the golden rule; you're saved by trusting in Jesus. "For by grace are ye saved." But when you are saved, it'll change your life.

If you're not certain that you're saved, would you like to be saved, would you? Would you like to know that you really do have life? Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life." Could I lead you in a prayer? We'll call this prayer the sinner's prayer. And you can pray and accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You can do it right now. Would you pray this prayer? "Dear God, I know that You love me. Thank You for loving me. And I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. Jesus, I do trust You. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe you paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. I believe that God raised You from the dead. And now I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Come into my life. Take control of my life and begin today to make me the person You want me to be. And Jesus, give me the courage to make it public. Help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."

2941 Kate Bond Road | Memphis TN 38133 | (901) 382-7900