

NOTES



PRAYER

Thank You, Lord, that You are victorious over every trouble and obstacle. Thank You for overcoming sin, death. Please help me to resist any evil that I may face today. As a result of Your death on a cross, I know that I can have victory, and we can walk strong in Your peace.

A Prayer to Walk Strong in the Lord's Peace - Lesli White

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

What is the most impressive building or structure you have ever seen? Why does it impress you?

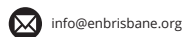


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WORD

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

24 "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. 25 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. 26 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. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

[Matthew 7:21-28](#)

5 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

[Matthew 6:5-8](#)

We can live our lives founded on a rock in such a way that when the rain falls and floods come and winds blow and beat upon us, that we will not fall, or do we want to live our lives, build our lives on sand in such a way that the rain falls and the floods come and the winds blow and beat against us and we fall? And great is our fall.

Obviously, we all would want to build our house on a rock, build our life on a rock. How do you do that? Jesus says, "Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them." It is that simple. Hear God's word and obey God's word. This is the way to live. This is the way to experience life that doesn't fall, life that stands. Especially when the hardships of life come crashing towards you, hear the word of God and obey the word of God. Make it your practice every single day, to hear the word of God, to read it, to study it, to meditate on it. Let it soak into your life. Don't forget what you've read and then obey it. Do it. Don't just hear the word. Put it into practice.

[David Platt: Our Firm Foundation \(Matthew 7:24-27\)](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

((NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE))

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how would you rate your steadiness in times of trouble and strife? Why would you rate yourself this way?
2. Matthew 7:23 shows Jesus saying to those who did acts in His name: "Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'". Why do you think he responds this way to those mentioned in verse 21 and 22 of chapter 7?
3. After reading Matthew 7:24-27, would you say that your life is build on the Rock or on sand? Why have you answered this way?
4. In Matthew 6:6 says that in prayer the Lord rewards "what is done in secret". Why is this? What does this mean for your life in Jesus?
5. If you would choose today to trust Jesus as the LORD of your life by building your life upon Him alone, take this moment to pray with your group. Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your lifegroup leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am Yours, and You are mine, In Jesus name, AMEN.