

STAND FIRM

-Ryan Parsons-

Foundations are important. We recently had to rebuild a section of the foundation of our home. To first demo what was damaged and rebuild, it was necessary to add a temporary structure to support the house until the final foundation could be prepared and ready. The alternative was to try without the temporary support. However, that would likely mean the remaining structure would be damaged significantly or collapse. Foundations are important.

Not only are foundations essential, but where you build matters. Jesus told a story in the Sermon on the Mount contrasting two building projects. The difference was where the foundation of each home was constructed. Rock is solid when stress comes upon the structure. On the other hand, sand is not (Matthew 7:24-27). Naturally, people don't want their house to go "SPLAT!" But, Jesus raises the question: "Are you building on the right spot?"

Paul repeatedly tells the early disciples to "stand firm." Like Jesus, he instructs his readers where to plant their feet or build their lives of faith.

In the Lord - Philippians 4:1

In the faith - 1 Corinthians 16:13

In the grace of God - 1 Peter 5:12

In the freedom of Christ - Galatians 5:1

In what you were taught - 2 Thessalonians 2:15

In unity in the Gospel - Philippians 1:27

Why is this important? Throughout scripture, we find a promise that storms are coming. It is only a matter of time. The true test of the house will be if it stands when the external pressures comes. Will it stand, or will it fall? The foundation matters.

When a storm came for the Israelites on the bank of the Red Sea, Moses instructed the people to "stand firm!" They were not supposed to crumple and give up, nor were they to lose their resolve and fall into panic and chaos. They would fail if they built on their own capacity and ability to fight the Egyptians. But, if they built upon the salvation of the Lord, Moses told them they would stand.

Exodus 14:13

And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again."

The storm is coming. Where are you standing?

Hesed,
Ryan