

DEEP FOUNDATIONS

It is a noble thing to desire greatness and in our current society, people want the best of everything.

People want to drive the fastest car or the biggest SUV around.

Some want to have the Hollywood type of bodies – for guys it is having the six pack with well-shaped abs, for ladies it is to have that type of body which can allow you to get into any outfit.

For others, it is a desire to have a blissful marriage where it is valentines' day all year round.

Maybe for you it is to be the best preacher around town, the best worship leader or a powerful intercessor.

Whether we like it or not, in order to achieve all of that, there is a great deal of work that goes on behind the scenes.

In order to have what someone has, you must be prepared to go through what they went through in order to have it.

One of the greatest challenges we have is that people want things presented on a silver plate. The reality of the matter is that easy come, easy go. Unless you comprehend what it takes to achieve success, you won't look after it once you have it.

This brings me to today's message – I have entitled my message "DEEP FOUNDATIONS". As a continuation to our series, in order for you to be a triumphant person, you need to develop deep foundations.

1. What is a foundation?

- It is the lowest load-bearing part of a building, typically below ground level.



- The type and quality of the foundation determines how high a building can go – in other words the higher the structure the deeper the foundation got to be
- Though unseen yet it is the most important aspect of whatever you are building.

DEEP FOUNDATIONS

- Because it is unseen, you can easily be tempted to cut corners – but it will soon catch up with you when cracks start appearing
- It is also described as the underlying basis or principle of something – the foundation years of your schooling are very important
- Your foundations influence the way you view life (marriage, work, the house of God, people around you). Basically your foundations shape your worldview
- There are people who are born again but they have a worldly view to life

2. A believer is described as a building

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

It is God who is doing the building – when you allow God to build you, He will lay the right foundation

Hebrews 3:6 ...but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

- Your life is a building, which means you need to have a foundation – when last did you inspect the foundation upon which you are building your life.
- The first thing that you put down is the foundation, yet many Christians ignore it, resulting in them building their lives wrongly
- A good foundation will cost much, just as it is expensive in the natural, so it is in the spirit. It will cost you to build a proper foundation

3. Why do many people resist laying a proper foundation?

- It is easy and one does not have to follow any instructions – it is free for all
- It is less painful and does not require any effort in digging deep. In order to build a proper foundation, you need to dig up stuff and uproot certain things in order to establish the proper thing

Jeremiah 1:10 Today I appoint you to stand up against nations and kingdoms. Some you must uproot and tear down, destroy and overthrow. Others you must build up and plant."

DEEP FOUNDATIONS

- People are impatient and quickly want to get to the next level of their lives
- Building without a foundation is cheaper...at least at first.
 - Building without a foundation ends up being more expensive because at some point the house without a proper foundation will collapse and have to be rebuilt.
 - It is cheaper to build a house properly the first time than have to rebuild it over and over again.

4. Every strong foundation is built around Jesus Christ

- For any physical foundation to be sound, there are certain materials you have to have such as cement, steel, stone etc
- In the same way, a foundation without Jesus at the centre will surely fail the test of trials.

1 Corinthians 3:9-11 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:11-12 This is the "stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone." Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

- It is worth to note that in as much as Christ was the chief corner stone, He was rejected by the church leaders
- It is possible for you to indirectly reject the Christ. There are so many professing Christians but their behaviour lands them to being enemies of the cross. Have you heard of submarine Christians – they surface on a Sunday and submerge the rest of the week.

Philippians 3:17 Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. 18 For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ.

- How much you know Jesus in your life determines the quality of your foundation – may you cry for a revelation of who the Messiah really is.
- Christ longs to be known by you – it is through knowing Him that we are able to be intimate with Him. It is possible to know Christ for yourself

DEEP FOUNDATIONS

Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"¹⁴ "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." ¹⁵ Then He asked them, "But who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because My Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. ¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build My church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

5. How did Christ identify Himself

In answering this question, let's explore the "I AM Statements" of Jesus in the Gospel of John

5.1 The bread of life

John 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

- Bread satisfies our hunger and true satisfaction is found in Jesus
- Whoever partakes of Him will never again know spiritual hunger.
- Just like bread, you need to get it for yourself – each of us need to find Him for ourselves
- You have the sprite advert that says "nothing refreshes like sprite" – but truth be told the more you drink that stuff, the more chances of dehydration. But Jesus quenches our thirst for good.
- Once we have Jesus, our search for spiritual fulfillment comes to an end, and we never need any other sustenance.

5.2 The Light Of The World

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- Light talks of enlightenment and clear sight – the world promises enlightenment but true enlightenment is found in Jesus

DEEP FOUNDATIONS

- This statement means that when you are in Jesus, you will not be ignorant of spiritual matters but will have the power of understanding especially of the spiritual truth that brings eternal life
- Jesus is the answer to every spiritual matter

5.3 The gate

John 10:9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

- No one can enter the kingdom of God except through Jesus – He is the gate to life.
- When you enter through Him, you will have the freedom to come and go as you please, dwelling in a state of peace in the midst of plenty

Psalm 23:2, *“He makes me lie down in green pasture.”*

5.4 The good shepherd

John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

- A good shepherd does not expect the sheep to fend for itself and Jesus is a good shepherd.
- A shepherd’s job is to accept responsibility for the safety and well-being of his flock.
- A hireling will only take that to the point where it would threaten their personal safety, rightly deciding that their life is worth more than that of a sheep.
- As for Jesus, He laid down His life for the sheep – when one sheep is lost, it is too valuable for Him to forget about it.
- The duty of the sheep is to listen to the instructions of the shepherd – the more we listen, the more we can benefit from the good shepherd.

5.5 The Resurrection And The Life

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

- This is a profound statement and which changes the way look at life

DEEP FOUNDATIONS

- Jesus promises us that our lives don't finish the day we die physically – there is eternity after death.
- We need to live life with a perspective of eternity – this changes your value system. Ultimately we must be driven by things that will influence our eternity.
- The truth of the matter is that heaven is for real and hell is for real. Hell was never designed for people but for the devil and his demons.
- Whilst on earth, we have an opportunity to choose how we want to spend eternity.
- The second part of this statement says “...and whoever lives and believes in me will never die” - If we didn't already know about the rapture, we wouldn't see this, but since we do we can understand that He was talking about that one generation who will be alive when He comes for the Church, and will receive eternal life without dying first.

5.6 The Way, The Truth, And The Life

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

- The devil has deceived many people to think that there is one God but so many ways to reach him.
- Jesus deals with that once and for all by making this profound statement - There is no other way into the presence of God than by accepting the Lord's death as payment in full for our sins.
- Peter alludes to this when he said “*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*” (Acts 4:12)

5.7 The Vine

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

- It is important to realise that salvation is not a fruit bearing event but it creates the platform through which fruit can be brought forth
- Jesus is talking about what happens after salvation – there is a way of life that will enable you to be fruitful and that is to remain in Jesus

DEEP FOUNDATIONS

- In the absence of abiding in Christ, we'll still be saved, but we'll be of no more use to the work of the Kingdom than the unfruitful branches the gardener discards at pruning time
- It is through fruit bearing that we are able to expand the kingdom of God.
- Fruitfulness is not a matter of just bearing fruit but it is a matter of the motive behind the fruit being produced.
- Only those things that are prompted by the Holy Spirit and where our only motive is for His glory will be rewarded

Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. (1 Cor. 4:5)