

Power points for faith #4 Building on the rock

Title / Intro - New series - power points for faith - re: sharing good news - what is it, how do we live it, how do we share it?

Started at very beginning.... Jesus. How to become a Christian? 'believe in Jesus' - Saving faith, and assurance of faith - seen lifeboats and trains to help us.

Last week we saw that God's Word, not our feelings is where we should put our faith - this week we will take a more thorough look at why, and how that works.

God's word is an immovable rock we can confidently build our lives upon.

When I was a young Christian I read quote that has had a profound impact of my life, and my ministry – I have shared it with you before, but I would like to again because it will help us see how things really are, and therefore how we can understand how to live life God's way.

“God, the Word of God and the souls of men; according to the Bible these are the only things which will last eternally. To the extent that you are involved in these three things, you are involved in eternity.” Jerry White

We have already thought about the priority of having a relationship with God because in a very real sense it is in knowing God that we receive eternal life and are fit for a relationship that goes on forever.

I seek to prioritise my ministry by these things, there are plenty of things I could invest my time and attention in, but time with God in prayer and worship, time with his Word in both study and in sharing the fruit of that study, and also in my personal work both evangelism and pastoral care – all these things have a lasting, even eternal consequence.

I want you to notice that there is a **temporary and an eternal** aspect to our world, a **changeable and unchangeable** – there is also a **visible and invisible** aspect: God is eternal, and he is invisible. The souls of men are not visible but they last, our bodies are visible, but they age and decay and change. This book (Bible) can be damaged, even destroyed through the passage of time, but the word of God it contains and reveals, is eternal. Let me show you two passages that tell us this much:

Circumstances change Gods word does not –

Matt 5.17-19 in msg

2 Cor 4.16-18

This gives us the basis we need to think about our subject and the passage which Bev read to us, they should hopefully be self explanatory to us now.

Build your life on the rock – [wise & foolish builders](#) Matt 7.24-27

We have two lives here, [both houses could have looked exactly the same](#), perhaps even because of the money saved by the sand-man his was more lavish – from above the ground, visibly they could look exactly the same, or perhaps sandman even more successful in life. But there is more to life than just what is seen: under the ground, in the dimension which is invisible, one was built on rock, one was built on sand – one had unseen resources and stability, the other was ‘what you see is what you get’, with the wise man there was more than meets the eye. They both shared the same [storm](#) – we live the same life as everyone else – Jesus said we would be in the world, but not of it – life happens and its not always easy or pretty, Jesus said as much ‘in this world you will have trouble (thlipsis – pressure) but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world’

So the storm hits, and at ***this*** point we find out who had a foundation and who didn’t – it is not until the storms of life that we find out the truth; one house falls, one house stands – but what decided it long before the storm was what was below the surface, what was unseen – what they were both building upon.

Another Bible reading to consider is Jeremiah 17.5-8 which describes two types of life, instead of being about houses, it is about the personal experience of those who have roots in God, or if they look elsewhere for their support, guidance and wisdom. The same heat comes, the same drought but one tree has hidden roots. The other ‘does not see prosperity when it comes’ because it has its roots in parched and barren soil.

This passage also has echoes of Psalm 1 a [tree planted by rivers of water](#), here again it is what is under the surface that makes all the difference.

So what are we saying? [God’s word is an immovable anchor in times of storm](#), it is a source of unseen strength and support for us, and it makes us independent of circumstances in as much as there is more to us than meets the eye because we are connected to the invisible, eternal word of God. The anchor is unseen, it is below the waves, and yet it gives a flexible security which means the vessel avoids shipwreck. We can trust that circumstances change and that Gods word does not – the storms will always blow themselves out, no matter how furious they have been, we have the choice of looking out of the window of our house at the terrible storm, and feeling

fear and overwhelm, or we can watch the storm knowing we are safe inside because we have built our lives on the immovable rock. The choice is ours.

So how do we do this? Well firstly just by reading the Bible, listening to it, hearing preaching & teaching on it. But more than this – by thinking about it – the passage in Psalm 1 ([tree](#)) says that the blessed man ‘meditates’ on it – the Hebrew word for meditate is to chunter – to rehearse a thing – you know how if you’ve ever lost an argument you then rehearse what you would have said? You get it just right? That is this word – you mull it over, the Hebrews believed you didn’t really know a thing until you could explain it – try this next time you are reading the Bible; when you have finished try imagining how you would explain it to a ten year old, when you can do that you have meditated on the scriptures!

The other thing is to think over Gods promises. [Rock climber](#).

Looks dangerous, as if he is hanging on by his fingertips, can feel like that for us too sometimes. [Promises like pitons](#), the metal spikes that climbers rely on for safety when they climb steep, rocky cliffs.

As the climber moves up the mountain, they hammer the pitons firmly in the rock, it means we can never fall too far from where we last planted a piton – Jesus is the climber below holding our rope. Promises are like that little spike that we can hang on to, and if we feel we will fall, let us know we are in safe hands.

Whoever believes in me HAS eternal life (John 6.47)

[I am with you always / never leave you or forsake you. Matt 28, Heb 13](#)

I go to prepare a place for you I will come and take you to be with me. Jn 14.3

Forgiveness: [there is condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus Rom 8.1](#)

[All things work together for the good of those that love God and are called according to his purpose. Rom 8.28](#)

If this week we were to think about these promises just for a few minutes every day, we would start to find that we are building our lives on the rock, putting our roots down deep and touching eternity and being changed by it.