

## **A Solid, Spiritual Foundation**

By: Cody Westbrook

Everyone knows that the strength of a building depends upon its foundation. If the foundation is not solid, whatever is built is destined for failure because it lacks strength and the ability to endure the internal and external forces that challenge its integrity. The same can be said about the family. Just as every building has some kind of foundation, so too does every family. The foundation may be weak or strong; it may be temporary or permanent; it may be able to withstand the challenges it faces, or it may not. Our homes are extremely important for so many reasons, and we know that the Devil is relentless in his attack against them. So it is of the utmost importance that our homes are strong and true. This is possible only if they are built upon the right foundation.

David said, “Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it” (Ps. 127:1). I can build my house upon humanism, materialism, selfishness, greed, or any kind of worldliness, but it will not stand. Sooner or later the Devil will challenge its stability. A sudden and unexpected death, a financial or medical crisis, the negative influence of popular media, and so many other things are common tools that the Devil uses to try and break families. The only foundation that will stand steadfast and true through these attacks is God. He must be the architect and the builder of my home. He must be the solid rock (1 Sam. 2:2) upon which my family rests.

With Jehovah as its foundation, my home will be able to stand strong in the face of internal challenges. The foundation of a structure determines its strength. Over time houses shift and, if the foundation is weak, the house will crack and could eventually collapse. God tells us that our homes are to be characterized by love and respect for one another (1 Cor. 13). We are to season our speech with salt (Col. 4:6); we are to be angry but sin not (Eph. 4:26); we must do to others as we would have them do unto us (Matt. 7:12). All of these biblical injunctions, and so many others, have wonderful application to how family members interact with one another. A home founded upon God and His word will abide by these principles, and will not allow internal disagreements or anything else cause their home to crumble.

Building our homes on the proper foundation will also help to strengthen them against external forces. In Matthew 7:24-27 Jesus told the story of two houses; one was built upon the sand and the other built upon a rock. When the storms came and the waves crashed upon the houses, the one with the weak foundation crumbled while the house built upon the solid foundation stood firm. Our families will be faced with all kinds of external challenges. Sometimes the Devil uses friends or co-workers to try and cause a gap between spouses. Children may pick up bad habits or false ideas from teachers or peers that can be potentially devastating to a home. The family must put on the whole armor of God together (Eph. 6:11), and be ready to fight the storms of life that will pound upon its walls (Phil. 1:27). This can only be a reality if we first build our homes on the proper foundation.

God calls for Christians to be “steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58). Our faith is to be rock-solid; founded upon the firm foundation of our God and His word. Our homes should be the same. In 1834 Edward Mote wrote the words that we so often sing, “On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other

ground is sinking sand.” If we can borrow Mr. Mote’s sentiments, may it be said of all of us, “On Christ the solid rock my family stands, all other ground is sinking sand.”