

## A Rock Like No Other

The old hymn “The Solid Rock” gives an excellent description of what it means to place Christ at the center of our lives. Too often after becoming a new Christian or being a Christian for some time, we begin to drift away from God. We’re either not confident of where our hope comes from or we can start to slide off the firm foundation we once knew. Even if the rest of the information you read shares nothing new, my prayer would be for it to help renew, rekindle, restore, refresh or find your ONLY source of hope!

The song starts “Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.” The writer, Edward Mote, goes on to remind us to lean on Jesus’ name, to rest on His unchanging grace, to anchor in Him; His oath, His covenant, His blood support me, He is all my hope. My hope, that when He comes I will be found in Him, dressed in His righteousness, faultless to stand before the throne. Why? Because I’ve chosen to stand, to live my life on Christ the solid Rock, for all other ground is sinking sand.

The essence of the song and Christ’s words to us are found in Matthew 7:24-27, *“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. 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. 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. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”*

When once you realize deep in your heart only God can sustain and satisfy you, then you will transition from trying to build your life on the sinking, sandy mindset and values of the world, to God your Rock. When you accept Isaiah 40-28, *“The LORD is the everlasting God, ...He will not grow tired or weary,”* you can be confident that amidst all that goes on around you He is

your one constant, one hope, one comforter and one provider (to name a few). He will then become your true joy, true desire and one true purpose. As Isaiah 40-31 says, *“Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*

Throughout scripture we’re reminded of God our Savior (Psalm 89-26), Redeemer (Psalm 78:35), Fortress, Deliverer, Shield, Salvation, Stronghold (Psalm 18:2), Rock Eternal (Isaiah 26:4) among others. Psalm 71:3 says, *“Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go.”* I would further challenge you not to make Him only a Rock where you can go, but a Rock where you live.

You can’t just go to Him in an emergency or when YOU feel the need is there. God wants your heart ALL the time. If you are to live on the Rock, you have to live by His principles all the time. He has to be the center of your life like a hub is the center of a wheel. If the hub is not in the center, the wheel will wobble when it turns. If God is not YOUR center, your life will wobble as your world turns.

As you look around you can see the loss of a Godly center: the drifting, the living on sand. Even in our churches. To some, church-going can be thought of as filling a weekly requirement. As long as one makes it to the service it’s not important to focus on God. They may assume it’s God-honoring to talk through service, sleep through service, regularly show up halfway through service or bring the cell phone in so they don’t miss an important call. What a surprise it would be if God called and asked them to spend some time with HIM since they were there. And remember, worship is to give praise and honor to God; when you miss that part you’re only getting, (me focus) not giving (God focus).

Just because you are a Christian doesn’t mean you won’t sin, have troubles or be tempted by the desires of the world. But if you truly want to live for Him, on the Rock, and be a meaningful

witness to others, you have to separate yourself from the practices of the world and be firmly anchored on the Rock of Jesus Christ.

If you build your life on sand, ignoring God's principles, the first difficulty you face will cause you to wonder why you feel lost or alone. If, however, you build your relationship on the Rock before the crisis or temptation comes or the storms of life fall, you will be confident of WHO is with you. Psalm 23 reminds us of the Lord our Shepherd who guides us, restores us and comforts us as we walk through the valleys of life.

So I challenge you not to be like the people you read about in the Old Testament who would jump back and forth from the idols of the world to God when a crisis arose (that still happens today). Instead, place your feet firmly on the Rock. But don't just stand on it, jackhammer two holes in it, place your feet in the holes and fill them with concrete. In other words, the Rock goes everywhere you go. Put His Words into

practice, keep them in your thoughts, keep HIM in your thoughts, lean on Him, and spend time with Him.

*Heavenly Father, I thank you for being my Rock upon which everything meaningful in life is built. Give me the wisdom to choose You daily and to put your Words into practice. Please keep my mind, my heart, and my feet firmly anchored in You, always. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.*

You've put your trust in God and begun to rebuild your life on the solid Rock of Christ. Satan is beginning to see you as more than a bench warmer and wants to throw some confusion or doubt into your mind about your new life. He will try to get you to look at your past. It's at this point you have the opportunity to use all you have learned in God's Word to help you through what may be your first hurdle as a Christian--not looking back to the past or at the world around you.