

6/21/20 Message notes (Pent 3): Build on a Strong Foundation

Jesus's story of two builders: a wise one and a foolish one...

"Therefore, everyone who hears what I say and obeys it will be like a wise person who built a house on rock." -Matthew 7:24 GW

- A) James shares 3 examples of how to know you've put God's _____ into practice:
- 1) **You'll have a controlled _____**: *"Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless"* (James 1:26 NIV).
 - 2) **You'll have a caring _____**: *"Pure, unstained religion, according to God our Father, is to take care of orphans and widows when they suffer..."* (Jas. 1:27a GW)
 - 3) **You'll have a clean _____**: *"and to remain uncorrupted by this world."* (1:27b)
- B) Those things are evidence of _____ Christianity.
As Jesus tells his followers:
"If you understand all of this, you are blessed whenever you follow my example." (John 13:17 GW)
- 1) **To grow spiritually, we need spiritual _____**.
Peter said, *"Desire God's pure Word as newborn babies desire milk. Then you will grow in your salvation."* (1 Peter 2:2 GW)
 - 2) **Certain _____ unlock God's Word.**
 - 3) **One of those keys is accepting the Bible's _____**.
The Bible says: *"When you received God's word from us, you realized it wasn't human words. Instead, you accepted it for what it really is—God's word. This word is at work in you believers."* (1 Thes. 2:13 NIV)
- C) Four _____ sources of authority that people often use instead of God's Word:
- 1) _____: People who follow this authority source say, "But everybody's doing it."
Yet the Bible warns against it: *"Never follow a crowd in doing wrong. When you testify in court, don't side with the majority to pervert justice."* (Exodus 23:2 GW)
 - 2) _____: These people say, "But we've always done it that way!"
Jesus told the religious people of his day: *"You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions"* (Mark 7:8 NIV)
 - 3) _____: This unreliable source says, "Well, it seems logical; it seems rational."
But God's Word warns against using our intellect as our source of authority; *"There is a way that seems right to a person, but eventually it ends in death."* (Pr. 16:25 GW)
 - 4) **Personal _____**: Throughout the United States you'll find people saying, "I believe it because I feel it." or, "follow your heart."
But the Bible tells about when Israel was in anarchy because of that attitude: "Everyone did whatever he considered right." (Judges 21:25 GW)

Close: There's only one reliable authority for life: God's Word...

"Every Scripture passage is inspired by God. All of them are useful for teaching, pointing out errors, correcting people, & training them for a life that has God's approval. They equip God's servants so that they are completely prepared to do good things." -2 Tim. 3:16-17 TLB

"All of God's word has proven to be true." -Proverbs 30:5a GW

Answers: A) Word, (1) mouth, (2) heart, (3) mind, B) genuine, (1) food, (2) keys, (3) authority, C) unreliable, (1) Culture, (2) Tradition, (3) Reason, (4) feelings.