Words To Build of Life On: The Word

Words are powerful, they change us, they stick with us, the idea or belief that words can bring can’t be easily taken away because they live inside us. We use words to describe ourselves, we take the words that others have said about us and they form us. What words are you letting rule in your heart? What words are you letting lay the foundation for your life?

For our session today let’s pick up our bibles or tap that app and see how God has been using His words for us to build the foundation for our lives, specifically in regards to Identity, Discipline &Hope, and a call to Action. Let’s start by looking at if we can trust God.

I don’t know about you but I don’t typically make a best friend overnight, it usually comes with time and experience, time together and the experiences of doing things together leads to a deepening in our relationship. It’s hard to have trust without time and experience. How do we know we can trust God? How do we know who God is or even why we should trust Him?

When we look at God’s word, we don’t really get an intro that gives us a reason for why we can trust God or a brief origin film telling us who God is or where he comes from. However, even though we don’t get a backstory, we do see in the entirety of scripture God standing beside us from the beginning of time and in every experience.

Looking at the story of the fall, we see what mankind did and what the consequence was. It’s important to remember what God did too! He spoke of our deliverance, he spoke of His standing with us, and he spoke of his love for us. The story of *God With Us* runs through all of scripture where we see time and time again, God with us, from Abraham, to Moses, to David, to Ruth, to Jeremiah, to Peter to You and I. In God’s word we see that He is faithful in what he says, from our deliverance from sin, to him coming to be with us, and his love that endures forever.

How are your times and experiences with God? When you reflect and look back on your life where do you see God working, God standing with you? I can’t stress enough how spending time in reading his word, gathering to worship him and allowing God to fill your everyday experiences of life will help you understand who He is and who you are as well. In spending time and doing life IN Him, you won’t be tossed to and fro by every wave or crisis that comes your way, but rather your life will be built upon the firm foundation of God’s word.

Seeing that God has been trustworthy, we can also trust what he says about us. I love that Genesis tells us from the very beginning that we were made in God’s image, in his likeness, and likewise in the New Testament that we are to be conformed to the image of Christ. It’s always interesting to me to note that the image or likeness of God is never followed by a physical description, but rather characteristic traits, to care for the earth to preserve it and echoed again in the New Testament to be salt and light, to walk and do the good works he prepared in advance for us.

Likewise God’s word gives us purpose and meaning. In a world that is quick to point out how something works, the question of why is often ignored. How often are we taken a back when were asked why we do something, I just want to say, ugh I don’t know I just kind of do it… do you ever feel like that, you wake up, burn through the day, go to sleep, wake up, burn through the day, go to sleep, wake up, burn through the day and it just goes on and on; a monotonous routine that seems meaningless and exhausting and definitely not fulfilling. But as pastor Tim likes to say, we are human Beings, not Human Doings. In 1 Peter we are told that we are chosen! That we have been set apart and more than that, that we belong to God. Likewise in the Gospel of John chapter 1we are called the children of God. If you are looking for something to take you out of the rut or the funk you’ve been living in, turn to God’s word in which you are TOLD, not asked to think about it this way, but flat out TOLD, you are his. He loves you, he calls you his masterpiece, even when we don’t see it, he does. Let us put off the labels that we have put on ourselves, or have let others put onus, or let our deeds define us, and instead hear what he has called us and respond appropriately.

I love that he calls us children! I have a daughter and being a parent is such a cool thing, but it’s hard sometimes you know! I’m 100% down for the playing of Lego’s, the goings to Disneyland, the me telling my child what to do and her responding immediately, keeping her room clean, making her bed, mowing the lawn… but the discipline… that parts difficult. But I know that if I don’t discipline my child, if I don’t teach her to have responsibility, to love others, and I don’t make the hard decisions that will shape her, if I ignore her and just assume it’s a phase and she’ll grow out of it, man. It’s just not going to happen. I have to take an active role in discipling her, I do, not just my wife but the both of us, and everyone who lives in the household. We all have to own it. In Hebrews 12, God’s word tells us that God disciplines those he loves. In fact it says that God disciplines us so that we may share in His holiness and that later we will reap a harvest of righteousness and peace.

Do you ever feel like God’s law is there just to be a burden or to keep us humble or so we don’t have too much fun, In Romans 6-7 we see Paul really wrestling with the purpose of the law, but he concludes that God’s law is good and is there to instruct us in his ways. Proverbs says it like this, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, but in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight. He knows what is best for me. And yet I still think I know better or that maybe this one sin doesn’t really matter. But God’s word is clear, all have sinned and fallen short and the punishment for sin is death and damnation. That doesn’t sound like the kind of discipline that I want to receive, I’d rather just be ignored or run away so I don’t have to be disciplined. And believe me if the only word’s God spoke to us were ones of harsh discipline and disappointment or him harping on us all the time, who could bear that force always coming down on you. Not only that but how about how you feel on the inside the guilt of letting God down, the shame in failing and never being good enough.

But what I love about our God is the way that his word speaks to us in a pattern of Law and Gospel / Gospel and Law. In disciplining us, but also giving us hope that all is not lost. Did you ever stop to read the 10 commandments and notice that it begins with a Gospel proclamation? I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery” or how in the new testament the call to live a certain way is always preceded with what God has already done for you! In God’s Law he speaks to us in a way that shows us our sin, shows us our need for a savior, and shows us how we should live, but in His Gospel, He also shows us that he has forgiven us our sins on account of Christ Jesus, he has sent us the savior since we could not save ourselves, and he sends us his spirit to live inside of us and his spirit is constantly and continually working in us to be more like Christ!

These words of Gospel are everything, because you don’t have to earn God’s love. Hear me on this, you do not have to earn God’s love, he gives it to you freely because of Jesus. The very things that we cannot do to please God he has done for us in Christ Jesus. The endless cycle of trying to earn love or keep love does not happen with our God. He has shown us how deep his love for us is. And he has promised that nothing will ever be able to separate us from the Love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Christ Jesus we see the embodiment, the word made flesh, of Who God is. Loving and merciful, we see that he was not content with just to redeem us, but to make us co heirs of the kingdom on account of Christ Jesus, that the victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil, the victory that we could never achieve, he gladly achieves and gives to us, and then comes such an exciting part. Something that I still have trouble comprehending. He then sends us, He invites us to be his ambassadors, to Go and tell what he did and to Share what he did in acts of love and service.

In Isaiah 55, God’s word says that “as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth, it will not return to me empty but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You and I are the living proof of this text! His word, the gospel of Christ, that Jesus has died, rose and there is forgiveness of sins in his name has gone out and we know and believe that we have been redeemed, his word that lives in us spills forth from our lives as we boldly go to take his word to our neighbors, to change the world with the purpose of showing it who Christ Jesus is and what he has done. God’s word, the bible is an amazing thing. It allows us to constantly hear his voice and to build our lives on the foundation that is Jesus.

Christ’s richest blessings to you and your life group as you GROW in your study and you embrace his word and let it take root in your lives so that you may become like Trees whose roots run deep, who are not shaken, and who bear fruit, fruit that will last for all eternity.