

Our first section is about creating a foundation for our weekend/retreat/event. I was recently in a meeting where they were discussing the foundations of a house. Most people would think it wise to have a good strong foundation to your home. A house's foundation has several key functions. One, it helps to secure your home against the elements and keep it from cracks or collapse Two, it keeps the home level and supported and Three, It anchors the structure deeply to provide stability so it does not shift.

What about our faith? Aren't these the same ways to think of how a Foundation on God helps us build our faith upon it. We want a strong faith that will resist the elements or culture. We desire a foundation that supports our faith and one that anchors us deeply in the Lord to keep us from cracks or shifting. That is why this is so important to know the Bible and what it tells us about building this foundation. That is why we are taking time to build our foundation this weekend.

We are going to first look at the Four Non-negotiables. (Read them) Now let's go in for a closer look.

1. God is our Reference Point.
 - a. God is our Creator.
 - b. We must begin with Him. Gen 1:1 read
 - c. Have someone read the Q4.
 - d. Each of these traits offer us a starting point of who God is.
 - e. I am directionally challenged. I end up lost a lot. Drew at a little age had a better sense of direction than me. I love GPS as it helps me as a reference point.
2. His Word is our Authority
 - a. Lots of outside voices in this world want to be our authority. Also, my inner voice wants me to have authority over myself...not God.
 - b. As our creator He has the plan...the playbook....the blueprint since he is the builder.
 - c. Have someone read the verses and Q2 and 3.
 - d. When I was pregnant, I was anemic. I had a general lack of energy and was very tired at the beginning. When we do not spend time in God's word, we too can become anemic. We will lack the energy to do the right things...even if we know the right things. We will become too weak to fight against sin or temptation. God's Word is like the iron pills they gave me to have more energy. We must feast on it for it to nourish us and have us ready for battle.
3. His glory is our purpose
 - a. Read three verses
 - b. We can all think of a time that we had a specific job or purpose. As a foster parent we were very aware that our purpose was to offer these children a safe place to rest, heal, grow. That purpose did change over the time the child was in our home. There was an immediate purpose, but over time as we grew to know the children better, we would change our daily purpose while still engaging in the overarching original purpose. We would think less and less of the initial threats and schedules. This reminded me of becoming a Christian. At the beginning of our story with Christ, we see what we have been rescued from so clearly. Our motivations and desires change. We are aware of a change in direction and purpose as a new believer. However, over time, the memory of our rescue becomes a more distant memory and

life becomes a bit more “normal”. Just like the foster parents, we slow our efforts and our intentions as things feel a bit more “normal”.

- c. As believers our overarching goal NEVER changes. It is so easy to get distracted. We must be intentional and diligent in our reminders of Who God is (Our Ref Point) and What he says in His word. (His Word is our Authority).
 - d. Daily confession of sin is a great practice to keep His Glory as of first importance. When I sit before God my Father with the things where I have sinned, I am reminded of His Love and Forgiveness. This motivates me to do things for His Glory. To tell people about His Glory.
4. His Presence is our Promise.
- a. Read tag line
 - b. Read verses
 - c. He goes with us. We are not alone. He knows our fame is weak.
 - d. Do I believe He is with me? If I do, then my foundation is strong against any shifting. Where am I living like He is not with me? If His word is my authority, I can look to the Bible for assurance of His presence.

So we have these four sides to our foundation. How does it stay strong? Our world is always headed to decay. How do we keep our faith foundation from this corruption?

Being Transformed rather Conforming is how you firm up your foundation...anchor your home.

Read the Romans 11 passage

Spiritual – Logical

Conformed – Outside forces (Ex. Of bread in a pan)

Transformed – Metamorphosis (Seed to plant to fruit we eat) Not the same as when we started. We are a new creation.