

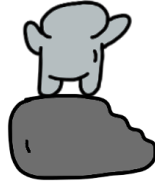


Nothing Less

3 BIBLICAL SECRETS TO BUILDING
A ROCK-SOLID CHRISTIAN LIFE

LEARNINGTOLIVESDABLOG.COM

Introduction



I once heard a Christian ministry leader by the name of Steve Wohlberg quote an interesting statement from Corrie Ten Boom.

The quote said:

"The center of His will is our only safety - let us pray that we may always know it!"

-Corrie Ten Boom-

That reminded me of a Bible verse I read once during my evening devotions:

*"The way of the Lord is strength for the upright,
But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity."*

-Proverbs 10:29, emphasis added-

That word "strength" in the original Hebrew actually means "place of safety."

So, based on what we've seen so far, following God's will and walking in God's way is the safest thing we as Christians should do.

But how does this basic, Christian principle play out in our daily lives on a practical level?

In this eBook, I'll be sharing 3 Biblical secrets (plus a bonus secret 😊) that God has taught me when it comes to truly living out a practical Christian life built on the rock of God's will!

Let's dive in!


Secret #1



GIVE GOD THE BLUEPRINT


 Key Verse: Proverbs 19:21

To start off, let's look into our key verse for today:

 *"There are many plans in a man's heart,
Nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand."
-Proverbs 19:21-*

What does that mean?

I really like how the NLV (New Life Version) Bible puts this verse:

 *"There are many plans in a man's heart,
but it is the Lord's plan that will stand."
-Proverbs 19:21 NLV-*

What can we learn from this? How does it apply to us?

The Secret Behind The Scripture

Proverbs 19:21 is a clear and Biblical illustration of the first secret to having a rock-solid Christian life.

Giving God the blueprint

In other words, surrendering our own plans--our own blueprint--in exchange for God's eternally rock-solid plans and blueprint.

This all reminds me of what Ellen White wrote in her book on the life of Christ, The Desire of Ages:

"But the Son of God was surrendered to the Father's will, and dependent upon His power. So utterly was Christ emptied of self that He made no plans for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the Father unfolded His plans. So should we depend upon God, that our lives may be the simple outworking of His will."

-The Desire of Ages pg. 208-

Do we have that same attitude Jesus had in fully depending on God and His will alone?

I mean, we just saw in Proverbs 19:21 that ONLY God's plans truly stand! In fact, that word "stand" in Proverbs 19:21 comes from the Hebrew word quwm; it means "endure, succeed."

So, if God's plans for our lives as Christians are filled with true endurance and true success, what about our plans?

David's words in Psalm 103 capture a thought-provoking picture of the REAL condition of us as mortal human beings and our honestly frail life plans:



"As for man, his days are like grass..."

-Psalm 103:15-

And in connection with the above verse, I'd like to also add Isaiah's words in Isaiah chapter 40:



*"The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever."*

-Isaiah 40:8-

We as human beings can easily wither away like grass. And even our own mere human plans and pursuits can also wither away in a similar form.

But in contrast to these thought-provoking truths, John the apostle wrote:



*"And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but
he who does the will of God abides forever."*

-1 John 2:17-

Making The Secret Practical

So, we've seen plenty of evidence--especially from the Bible--that our own will and plans only wither like grass, while God's will and plans withstand like a rock.

But, how do we apply this Biblical truth to our lives practically?

Well, I'd like to highlight one practical way:

SURRENDER

As I mentioned in the beginning of this chapter, we need to give--to surrender--the blueprint of our own human life plans and goals in exchange for the rock-solid blueprint of God's plans and goals for our lives.

The simplest way we can practically surrender our mortal, shaky life plans is to pray. We can pray something like:

Dear Lord, Please give me the willingness and the desire to surrender my own plans to You. Father, today I humbly choose to surrender my feeble plans into Your hands, regardless of how I emotionally feel about it. Please send Your Holy Spirit, dear God, to revive within my heart a love and acceptance to truly embrace Your rock-solid blueprint for my life as a Christian.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen

Seal Up The Secret In Your Soul

Please answer the following questions on either a separate sheet of paper or a notebook/journal

- Reread today's key verse. How does it apply to you specifically?
- Think of a Bible character who fully surrendered to God. What lesson(s) can you learn from him/her? How does it connect with what you read today?
- Think of a modern Christian hero (such as a missionary, a pastor, etc.) who fully surrendered to God. What lesson(s) of surrender can you glean from his/her life?
- Take the lessons you got from your chosen Bible character and modern Christian hero, how do these lessons apply to you personally?

Secret #2



GIVE GOD THE HAMMER

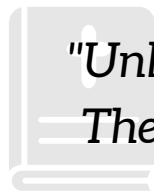
 Key Verse: Psalm 127:1

Let's move on now to the second secret to building a rock-solid Christian life:

"Give God The Hammer"

What does that mean?

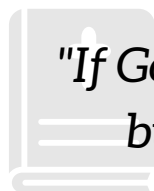
I'm sure today's key verse can easily answer that question:



*"Unless the Lord builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it"*

-Psalm 127:1-

I really like how The Message (MSG) Bible puts this verse:



*"If God doesn't build the house, the
builders only build shacks."*

-Psalm 127:1 MSG-

That sounds interesting, doesn't it?

If GOD is not the One building the houses of our lives, then based on Psalm 127:1, it is all "in vain." Or--as The Message Bible puts it--the self-built houses of our lives are really shacks!

I don't know about you, but I certainly don't like working hard to build a life of my own, and it all ends up resembling an old shack!

So, how does this lesson apply to us?

The Secret Behind The Scripture

Our key verse for today helps us realize the biggest downside of trying to build our Christian lives by ourselves.

Because unless GOD is building our Christian life, it will all end up resembling an old shack!

So, what is Secret #2 to building a rock-solid Christian life, based on what we've just seen in Psalm 127:1?

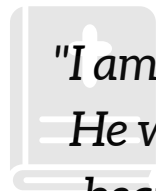
The secret is simply this:

DEPEND ON GOD

But how do we apply this secret practically?

Making The Secret Practical

Jesus' words in John 15:5 give us a practical insight to truly begin depending on God to build up our Christian lives:



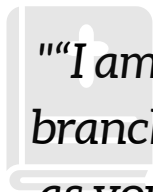
*"I am the vine, you are the branches.
He who abides in Me, and I in him,
bears much fruit; for without Me
you can do nothing."*

-John 15:5-

So, one practical way to truly depend on God is to **ABIDE** in Him.

But what does that mean?

I love how The Passion Translation (TPT) puts this verse:



*"I am the sprouting vine and you're my
branches. As you **live in union** with me
as your source, fruitfulness will stream
from within you—but when you live
separated from me you are powerless."*

-John 15:5 TPT, emphasis added-

When our lives are in union with Christ; when we're united with Him in a daily relationship, God will build up our Christian lives according to HIS blueprint, as we've learned from Secret #1.

This all reminds me of a beautiful Bible promise in Jeremiah 31:4, where God Himself proclaims:



*"Again I will build you, and you shall be
rebuilt,
O virgin of Israel!
You shall again be adorned with your
tambourines,
And shall go forth in the dances of those
who rejoice."
-Jeremiah 31:4-*

Would you like to begin depending on God to build your Christian life and to start living in a daily union with Him?

If so, then let's pray the following prayer below together:

Dear Lord, Thank You for Your promise in Jeremiah 31:4 that You will build my Christian life. God, please implant a willing and loving desire in my heart to truly spend time cultivating a daily relationship with You. Increase within my heart a loving trust to truly depend on You to build me up according Your blueprint alone.

In Jesus' Name,

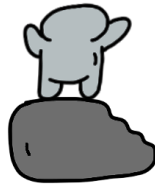
Amen

Seal Up The Secret In Your Soul

Please answer the following questions on either a separate sheet of paper or a notebook/journal

- Read John 15:5; how does this verse apply to you specifically?
- Reflect over your life as a Christian these past couple of years. Does it seem to resemble a shack? Why or why not?
- Look at your answer to the above question. Now consider this verse: "Blessed are those who recognize they are spiritually helpless. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them." (Matthew 5:3, GOD'S WORD Translation). How does this apply to you and your answer to the second question?
- Reflect over the current status of your personal relationship with Christ. How does the lesson(s) that you learned today apply to you and your relationship with Christ (or lack of it)?

Secret #3



GIVE GOD THE CONCRETE

Key Verse: Luke 6:47-49

As I was putting this particular chapter for this eBook you've been reading, I looked up on Google how to make a foundation.

What struck me was that one of the essential things needed in order to make a foundation is concrete!

That kinda reminded me of our key verse for this chapter:

Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

-Luke 6:47-49-

What does this mean? How does it apply to us?

The Secret Behind The Scripture

If we looked a little closer at our key verse, we'll notice a certain difference between the men in Jesus' parable:

- One DID what Jesus said
- One "DID NOTHING"

In other words, the one who ACTED on Jesus' words is the one who had that rock-solid Christian life, and DID NOT fall! Yet, the one who "did nothing" was the one who DID fall!

So, what is the third secret we can glean from our key verse for today?

I believe we can call this third secret by one simple name:

ACTION

But how do we make this secret practical?

Making The Secret Practical

In our key verse for today, Jesus said that those who hear His sayings and DO them, they will be building on the rock-- the true foundation, the genuine concrete.

But, Jesus also said that those who hear and DO NOTHING,

they will end up building "on the earth without a foundation."

This reminds me of two Bible verses:



*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
deceiving yourselves.*

-James 1:22-



All the foundations of the earth are unstable.

-Psalm 82:5-

Again, how do we apply all of this ourselves on a practical level?

The answer is simple.

We DO. We ACT. We LIVE OUT the words of Christ.

When Jesus says, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24), we ACT on it, and surrender our selfish desires for His desires, as we've learned from Secret #1.

When Jesus says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20), we DO it, and depend on God alone to build His Gospel work through us, as we've learned from Secret #2.

As I think over this lesson, it reminds me of an inspiring quote:

"The Lord is willing to do great things for us. We shall not gain the victory through numbers, but through the full surrender of the soul to Jesus. We are to go forward in his strength, trusting in the mighty God of Israel. "
-Gospel Workers (1892-1893 Edition)-

Do you, dear reader, sense God calling you to do something; to do a work that requires surrendering to Him, depending on Him, and acting on His words?

Friend, I wanna encourage you to take heart what you've just learned, and truly ACT on what God is calling you to do. If you honestly feel hesitant to take that first step of practical obedience, I wanna encourage you to pray this prayer:

*Dear Heavenly Father, Deep within my heart I sense You calling me to _____. But God, I honestly feel hesitant to do it. So, Lord, I wanna surrender my hesitancy, my fears, my worries, and my inadequacy to You. Please help me to see this as an opportunity to depend on You as I _____. Thank You, Lord, for Your strength that I can rely on to do what You're calling me to. Please strengthen me, Father, to _____.
Amen!*

Seal Up The Secret In Your Soul

Please answer the following questions on either a separate sheet of paper or a notebook/ journal

- List out some things Jesus said that you're honestly struggling to live out in your practical Christian life.
- Read and meditate over the following verses: John 15:5, Philippians 4:13, Isaiah 40:29. How do these verses apply to the things you just listed?
- Reflect over your Christian life these past couple years. Have you been building any part of your Christian life on the foundation of the world?

Bonus Secret



GIVE GOD THE KEYS

Key Verse: Revelation 3:20

Throughout this time we've spent together, we've been learning the 3 Biblical secrets to building a rock-solid Christian.

Secrets such as:

- Surrendering to the Lord
- Depending on God
- Living out Jesus' words

Now, I'd like to share something that will summarize fully the 3 Biblical secrets we've been exploring together throughout this ebook.

It's the bonus secret: "Give God the keys." We see the basic essence of this secret in our key verse for today:

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

-Revelation 3:20-

The Secret Behind The Scripture

As I mentioned previously Revelation 3:20 illustrates the bonus secret: "Give God the keys."

But what does that honestly mean?

Giving God the keys means not ONLY just letting Jesus come into your heart; it also means letting Him come into your heart AND giving Him the keys to every room in your heart.

In other words, the bonus secret to building a rock-solid Christian life is allowing Christ to not just be your Savior, but to also be your Lord. To allow Him to be in total control of your life.

But how does this secret look on a practical level?

Making The Secret Practical

Friend, we've already seen HOW to practically apply this bonus to our Christian lives!

- We SURRENDER to Christ's authority, as we've learned in Secret #1 of this ebook.
- We DEPEND on God to lead and guide us at every step of our Christian journey, as we've learned in Secret #2 of this ebook.
- We ACT out and LIVE out the commands Jesus gives us to do day by day, as we've learned in Secret #3 of this ebook.

And so, dear reader, it's my hope and prayer that you'll take these Biblical secrets to heart and allow God to build you up into the rock-solid Christian He wants you to be! Amen! Maranatha!

Seal Up The Secret In Your Soul

Please answer the following question on either a separate sheet of paper or a notebook/journal

- Reflect on the things you've learned throughout this ebook. Take some time to journal out any thoughts and/or prayers regarding what you've learned from this ebook.

Afterword



In Isaiah 9:9-10, we read something powerfully convicting:

All the people will know—Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria—Who say in pride and arrogance of heart:

*“The bricks have fallen down,
But we will rebuild with hewn stones;
The sycamores are cut down,
But we will replace them with cedars.”*

-Isaiah 9:9-10-

What does this mean? How does it relate to all we've been looking into throughout this ebook?

Well, I'd like to quickly highlight two particular words in these verses:

- Stones
- Cedars

Stones and cedars were the materials that the people of Ephraim and Samaria used to fix up the broken bricks and sliced sycamores of their desolated homes.

The Hebrew root word for "stones" is the word guwwz. It means "passing rapidly." Meanwhile, the Hebrew root word for "cedars" is the word 'araz, it means "to be firm."

How does this apply to us? How does it all relate to what we've been learning throughout this ebook?

Friend, despite all you may have read and learned in this ebook, NONE of that is gonna change you when you're still harboring the spirit of pride and arrogance in your heart.

Why?

Because it was pride and arrogance that motivated Ephraim and Samaria to rapidly pass by what God wanted them to build, and to firmly cling to their own blueprints, hammers, and concrete.

And the same thing can happen to us as Christians.

Unless we allow the Holy Spirit to address the pride in our hearts and to clean out our pride, we will frankly be like Ephraim and Samaria, and keep trying to rebuild our own lives instead of building truly rock-solid Christian lives!

It is pride that gets in the way of truly surrendering to God.

It is pride that gets in the way of depending on the Lord.

It is pride that gets in the way of living out the words of Christ.

Basically, pride is like a weight that drags us down and discourages us from truly aiming to build our lives on the rock of God's will, and keeps us stuck in building shacks on the sand of this world.

But, don't despair, dear reader!

There is still hope for you!

I wanna encourage you to take heart, and to invite you to pray the following prayer below if you desire to be free from pride and to begin truly building a rock-solid Christian life:

Dear Heavenly Father, Please forgive me for the times where I've allowed pride to block me from truly building a rock-solid Christian life! Lord, I pray and ask that Your Holy Spirit would come in and cleanse my heart from pride. Please tear down this wall of pride in my heart, dear God, so You may fully come in and build Your rock-solid Christianity in me!

In Jesus' Name,

Amen



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