



Security: Standing Firm in Life's Storms

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I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. — John 16:33

I love the story of *The Three Little Pigs*. Those porky brothers tried to make a way in the world but needed to factor in the huff and puff of the Big Bad Wolf. Much is made of the structure that each pig erects, and considering the lung capacity of the wolf, it mattered. But even a strong brick home will eventually crumble without a firm foundation.

“In the world you will have tribulation.” Anxiety is our human response to the uncertainties of life in a broken world. We are not made to face them alone. In Matthew 7, Jesus urges His listeners to build their homes upon a sure foundation. The occupants of the house on the rock and on the sand will have to ride out life's storms. Those who built their house upon God's Word, however, would find that although the winds “blew and beat” their home would not collapse.

We must not neglect our foundation. Ever since Genesis 3, people have doubted God's Word and questioned His goodness. We have wondered if God was holding out on us or if He really cares. In Matthew 6 Jesus speaks into our concerns. We need not worry or be anxious because God values us and knows our needs. He urges His listeners to see that God has provided for more than just the necessities of daily life.

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you” (Matt.6:33). Although we may consider the unknowns of the future with fear, Jesus encourages us to look ahead with faith. Faith reminds us that we are not abandoned and that we are made for more. Our reasons to worry wane when compared to our reasons for courage. When we rely upon His Word we are reoriented to God's lasting purposes.

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace.” The Apostle Paul also shares that we need not be anxious about anything because we have access to the Lord through faith and prayer. The preceding verse explains why, “the Lord is near” (See Phil.4:4-7). We can turn to God in our need. In the face of life's pressures, we have peace because God is with us.

“I have overcome the world.” God's care is so complete that He sent His Son into this turbulent world to supply our most lasting needs. In the face of Christ, our anxieties shrink. He has offered us himself. We can spend less time fretting and striving and instead, consider the provision of God.

Jesus is our firm foundation. Residing upon the Rock of Ages, we are sustained by His strength and invited to lay down our heavy burdens and rest. Knowing that this is true, we can take Jesus at His Word that although the house on the Rock will experience many gusts and gales, established on God's Word it will prevail.

Let's Chat

- You can take your cares and concerns to the Lord. Which worries pop onto your “weather radar” screen with the most frequency?
- How might the promises of God's Word give you courage in the midst of your difficult seasons? Consider 2 Corinthians 4:7-11, what reassures the Apostle Paul in the midst of his difficult circumstances and human weakness?
- Charles Spurgeon is quoted saying, “I have learned to kiss the waves that throw me up against the Rock of Ages.” What might this mean?

Take-Away Truth

The life built upon Jesus and His Word will experience storms, but we are secure in Jesus.

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