

## What's Right With The Church? The Faith Of The Church

**Text: Acts 2:42-47:** *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*

**2 Timothy 4:1-4:** *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

### **Introduction:**

A building is only as good as its foundation. It may look durable. It may sparkle with gold fixtures and it may overwhelm you with a sense of awe when you walk among its beauty.

But if its foundation is faulty, then it is only a matter of time before destruction. David asked in **Psalms 11:3**, *"If the foundations be destroyed, what shall the righteous do?"*

### **I. The Firmness of this Foundation**

- A. Earthquakes are coming with more regularity, just as Jesus predicted in **Luke 21:10, 11**: *"Then said he unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom*

*against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.”*

- B. While all earthquakes are horrendous, it stands to reason that the cities that construct their buildings knowing that an earthquake is a possibility will suffer less casualties than those that never take this possibility into account.
- C. You cannot name anything that has stood the test of time without a firm foundation.
  - 1. In the past 2000 years the church has lived through persecution, scandal, famine and flood yet she keeps bouncing back.
  - 2. Systems and movements that have built around men and a dogma or doctrine that was materialistic, carnal and self-serving have died.
  - 3. But the church still stands. Why? Because she stands upon the word of the living God.

D. How strong and firm is this foundation?

- 1. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away" (Mark 13:31).
- 2. "The word of God is more powerful and more sharper than any two-edged sword piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

## **II. The Flawlessness of the Foundation**

- A. In this day of uncertainty, dishonesty and abused confidence, there's not much anyone can consider perfect anymore.
  - 1. But God's word is perfect and flawless.
  - 2. Some denominations are facing splits over the literal and figurative interpretation of the Bible.
  - 3. But just remember, if Satan ever gets you to doubt any of it then you will doubt all of it. This word that we preach is God's word. *"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"* (2 Peter 1:21).

B. I do not back up from this truth today. The word of God is without error. *“For the time will come when men will not endure sound doctrine. They will turn away their ears from the truth and be turned unto fables.”* (2 Timothy 4: 3, 4).

*“In the latter times, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils”* (1 Timothy 4:1).

*“Refuse profane and old wives fables”* (1 Timothy 4:7).

### C. I still believe:

- God formed man out of the dust.
- Out of Adam’s rib, He made woman.
- A serpent lied and deceived Eve.
- It rained 40 days and nights and Noah built an ark to save his family.
- The Red Sea parted and Moses led Israel across on dry land.
- That same sea drowned Egypt’s army.
- Jericho’s walls fell after Joshua and the Israelites marched around them seven times.
- The sun stood still.
- Samson killed a thousand Philistines.
- David killed a giant.
- Three Hebrew boys came out of a fiery furnace.
- Daniel was delivered from a lion’s den.
- Jesus was born of a virgin.
- Jesus died on a cross and rose from a grave.
- And He’s coming back again as Lord of lords and King of kings!

### III. The Fight for the Faith

A. In case you don’t know it, we will have to fight for this faith. **Jude 3:** *“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”* **1 Timothy 1:18, 19:** *“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on*

*thee, that thou by them might war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck.”*

Paul said, *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4: 7).* *“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses” (1 Timothy 6:12).*

B. The pressure is on for us to water down and dilute this faith. The move is on to turn this Gospel into something more psychologically appealing. The kind of preaching that most of us were raised on is quickly becoming antiquated and out of style.

But, I want to tell you that this is still the church of the whole Bible. The first foundational anchor of our forefathers was that we accept the whole Bible rightly divided. It's not popular, but I still believe God will bless us if we will be at least the one church in town that will still proclaim the “whole counsel of God.”

C. What is that foundation? Simply, that we believe:

- In the verbal inspiration of Scripture.
- In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
- That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary.
- That Jesus was crucified, buried and raised from the dead. That He ascended to Heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.
- That all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.
- That justification, regeneration and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.
- In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the word and by the Holy Ghost. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people.

- In the Baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.
- In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance and that it is the initial evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.
- In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
- Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement.
- In the Lord's Supper and washing of the Saints feet. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years. 1In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous, and eternal punishment for the wicked.