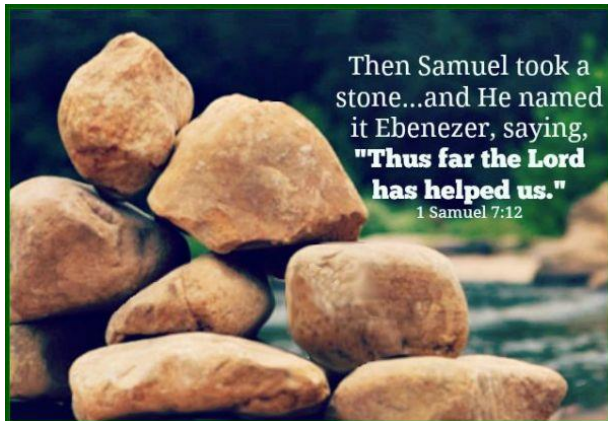


Guided by a cloud 34 (Exodus 13:21-22)

We currently have a housing estate being built behind our house and we have observed the development progress over many, many months. The scale of the work, the coordination involved and the skill needed at different stages has been interesting to watch. In the Old Testament David was directed by the Lord to prepare for the building of the house of God and Solomon was commissioned to build it. **1 Chronicles 28: 20** *"Then David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong. Have strength of heart, and do it. Do not be afraid or troubled, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not stop helping you. He will not leave you until all the work of the house of the Lord is finished."* It took Solomon seven years to complete the temple and the way things are going on our building site that will be a lot quicker than building seventy houses!



Worship time

[In Christ alone](#)

[You call me out upon the waters \(Oceans\)](#)

[The splendour of the King](#)

The wise and foolish builders Matt 7:24-27

Jesus was wonderful at illustrating truths about God with simple stories. He uses everyday things to illustrate deeper spiritual meanings. During His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told a story about two men: one who built his house upon a rock and another who built his house upon sand. The house built upon a rock weathered the storm, and the builder is called wise; but the house built on the sand collapsed during the storm, and the builder is called foolish.

The literal meaning of this parable is quite obvious: when building a house proper foundations are necessary. The spiritual meaning is found in **Matthew 7:24**: *"Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."* The house represents our lives or perhaps more specifically our hearts. In **Proverbs 23:26** God says to us: *"give me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways"*. The best foundations for our lives are the words of Jesus. However, it's not a matter of hearing the words and saying the right things but rather acting on them and putting them into practice. **James 1:25** *"But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it ... they will be blessed in what they do"*.

Sometimes it seems that circumstances and everything in the world is set up to make it difficult for us to follow God's word. Often our own feelings pull us away from what the Bible says. But a wise man will follow the word of God despite these pressures because he trusts God and has faith and hope. **1 Corinthians 3:11** *"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. ... ¹⁶Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives among you?"*

O Lord, you have given us your word for a light to shine upon our path; inspire us to meditate on that word and to follow its teaching, that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **St Jerome c.347-420**

God of the living word, give us the faith to receive your message, the wisdom to know what it means, and the courage to put it into practice. **New Zealand Prayer Book**