



## Essential Truths for Building Lives

by Pastor Carl D. Wood

“I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace,  
which is able to **build you up**” Acts 20:32

Dear Christian,

I am so happy that you have found forgiveness of sin in Jesus Christ, and have received the gift of eternal life. You may already have had opportunities to tell others about your salvation. You may also feel very uncertain about doing so. This is normal. Do not hesitate to tell others in your own way about your new life in Christ.

In 1 Peter 3:15, we are commanded to “**be ready** always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” The goal of these lessons is to help you **Be Ready In Christian Knowledge**. Each lesson is like another brick designed to “build you up” with the Word of God (Acts 20:32).

The Christian life is a great deal like constructing a building. In fact, there are many verses in the Bible that describe it just that way. When a building is begun, the most important thing is the foundation. For a Christian, the foundation must be Jesus. 1 Corinthians 3:11 says, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is **Jesus Christ**.”

As you begin these lessons, it is with the understanding that you have already laid the proper foundation. Just as it would be a waste to construct the walls of a house on a bad foundation, even so it would be pointless to begin building the Christian life without Christ.

Let us do some building inspection. What should be true of my foundation in Christ?

- I came to Jesus **Admitting** that I was sinner deserving of Hell. (Rom 3:23; Jn 3:18)
- I came to Jesus **Believing** that his death on the cross alone is able to satisfy God’s need for justice.
- I came to Jesus **Calling** on him in total dependence for the forgiveness of my sins.

It is as simple as A-B-C, but it is essential that the foundation is firm. If you have any difficulties with the above inspection, do not go any further in the building process. Make the foundation sure before proceeding in the building process.

Some of the details of our salvation experience can be forgotten with the passing of time and we may find ourselves wondering, “Am I really saved since I do not remember exactly what I said or what I thought at that time?” The best answer to this problem is to focus on what you believe right now.

Using the illustration of our concrete foundation, we may not have been present the day the cement truck pulled up and the foundation was poured, but we can determine its soundness by checking the condition of the foundation right now.

In the first lesson, we will talk more of having confidence in our foundation. Let me encourage you to give your best to these lessons. What are the bricks that we will be covering in these lessons.

- Knowing - How to have assurance of my eternal life.
- Identifying - How to show publicly what I have done.
- Joining - How to make myself accountable to others.
- Praying - How to communicate with God.
- Studying - How to learn from God’s Word.
- Changing - How to become more godly.
- Giving - How to be a good steward of God’s possessions.
- Witnessing - How to share your faith with others.
- Resisting - How to avoid giving into temptation.
- Yielding - How to live surrendered to the Lord.
- Abiding - How to live a consistent Christian life.

Set aside quality time when you can concentrate. Do not just look up the answers in the Bible and fill in the blanks. Practice your memory verses everyday. Pray and ask God to help you to grow in what you learn. 1 Peter 2:2 says that we are “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.” These lessons are designed to be easy to digest. I pray that they will be a help to you.