Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

I think we have all seen those awesome pictures of lighthouses being almost engulfed by huge waves. We see them and think, "*that looks awesome"*. But did you realize that the only reason these lighthouses can endure such waves, which usually happen due to a tremendous storm, is that they are rooted and grounded deep into a solid rock foundation.

We are also told to be the light of the world, and the only way a lighthouse can be a light to those ships passing by in a storm, is to be rooted and grounded in a good solid foundation.

- ✞ **Matthew 5:14 (NLT2)** ***You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.***

By reading this verse, we are to be a light set on a hill high for all to see. And that's what a lighthouse is, it is built on a big solid rock and lifted up high for all the passing ships to see. Once again they are there for the protection of these ships that pass by, especially during storms. But if the lighthouse was not built and deeply embedded into a solid rock, as soon as the storm would hit, the lighthouse would fall, and what good is the beacon of light on a lighthouse that has fallen? None.

So we are to be a light, rooted and grounding in Jesus Christ, our Rock. Because if we are not root and grounded in Jesus Christ, we will fall with those who are actually coming to us during the storms of life, because they see the light of Jesus shing through us. If you read the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives a very familiar example of this when He said:

- ✞ **Matthew 7:24-27** ***"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."***

Jesus mentioned two things that we need to do to be rooted and ground in Him, and it's in the very first sentence, which is "***whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them***" We are

quick to jump on the ***"Hear"*** them wagon, thinking, all I have to do is go to church and hear God's word, which is only half true.

Let me give you an example with the lighthouse again. Say the builders of the lighthouse read the instructions for building a lighthouse, which would include for it to be built, deeply rooted in a rock-solid foundation. They even hear other builders say, this is how they built their lighthouses, yet you say, well I read the instruction, therefore the lighthouse will stand in a storm, because even others told me how theirs withstood the storm by building them upon a solid rock foundation. Yet when you build the lighthouse, you decide to build it on the sand of the shore, because sand feels more comfy on your bare feet then a rock does. So you have read the instructions, and even heard them taught to you, yet you did not do them ("***and does them***").

So it is with us. Yes, go to church on Sunday and midweek and/or bible studies. Read God's word daily for yourself. But also apply them to your life as well, because if not you are building your life upon what you want (Soft sand for your bare feet) verses what you should be doing and truly standing on, which is a hard rock (Jesus) that withstands any storm.

- **Exodus 16:28 (MSG)** ***GOD said to Moses, "How long are you going to disobey my commands and not follow my instructions?"***

- **Leviticus 22:9 (NLT2)** ***The priests must follow my instructions carefully. Otherwise they will be punished for their sin and will die for violating my instructions. I am the LORD who makes them holy.***

- **2 Chronicles 34:31 (MSG)** ***The king stood by his pillar and before GOD solemnly committed himself to the covenant: to follow GOD believingly and obediently; to follow his instructions, heart and soul, on what to believe and do; to confirm with his life the entire covenant, all that was written in the book.***

- **Proverbs 4:4 (NLT2)** ***My father taught me, "Take my words to heart. Follow my commands, and you will live."***