

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."

Every January 1st I post a devotional that I wrote several years ago and the purpose is to encourage people to hang in there and read through the bible like they vow to do so they won't fail. In the devotional I post an actual recipe for Chocolate Chip Cookies, and the idea is that if you just read the recipe it doesn't really mean anything unless you apply it by making the cookies.

So I thought I would give another example for those of you who struggle with reading your bible or just living a Christian life. I mean, how many suffered through 2020 and have fallen or have gotten away from church and reading the bible? This is for you, and for all of us to keep on keeping on, not just in 2021, but until the Lord takes us home.

We are probably all familiar with today's devotional verses, where Jesus is talking about a man who builds his house on a rock, versus the man who builds his house on the sand. But one thing was pointed out to me today as I was listening to a teaching on this, and that is what both men had, or should I say, heard. They can be found in verses 24 and 26.

- † *whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them*
- † *who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them*

Simply, the man who built his house on the Rock and the man who built his house on the sand, heard the words of Jesus. And the difference is their response. Do you see it?
does them vs *does not do them*

Anyone can read the bible, and anyone can sit in church and listen to a message. Anyone can read devotionals every day, and anyone can listen to online teaching from different pastors, but unless you apply them, and start living them, it doesn't really mean a thing. (*does them* vs *does not do them*)

Think of the most well know verse in all of the bible **John 3:16**

- † **John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

Anyone can read it, memorize it and even quote it, but it does not mean they are saved, because there is one verb, or action word that the reader must apply to live this famous verse, and that word is **believes**. (*does them* vs *does not do them*)

Also when I was reading today's devotional verses, I thought of another thing, and that is, Who is the rock and who are the grains of sand that the men are building upon?

Well, we know the Rock is the words of Jesus. But what would the grains of sand be? I believe it would be the words of false teachers and non believers. Because if you try to stand on any word, other than God's perfect word, you will end up sinking and crumbling when trials or temptations hit.

So, what about you, are you really standing on the Rock, which is the Words of Jesus. Anyone can say yes, but as we just read, the only way you can stand on the Rock, the Words of Jesus, is to live them, not just read them.

Also, look at your life, do you say you are building your faith on the rock, yet how many seek the world and live the way the world (grains of sand/false teachers) tells them to and they are constantly falling because they put their action in the things of this world (sand) instead of the things of God (Rock)?

† **James 1:22** *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*