



## **WEEKLY STUDY**

### ***Firm Foundation***

Happy New Year! I truly hope it is a happy new year for you. I realize that we may not all be feeling that way as we begin 2026. We face challenges, the world seems unsettled. And yet, as followers of Jesus, we recognize that our foundation in Christ is the same as it ever was. Firm. Strong. Unshakeable. Thank God. 1 Corinthians 3.11 is our “verse of the year” for 2026. Set the course for this new year by claiming the foundation that has been prepared for you.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

#### Prayer Focus:

- Pray for those who are in especially unsettled circumstances. Those who face health challenges, and those who live in war-torn areas around the world. Pray that they would set their feet on the firm foundation of Jesus.

## **DAILY STUDY**

### **MONDAY: 1 CORINTHIANS 3.9-16 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

<sup>10</sup> By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. <sup>14</sup> If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

<sup>16</sup> Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

- Isn't it amazing that we are a part of God's plan? We work together in service of God's redemptive purposes. We are a part of what God is building. We remember that we are not the architect, and that we are not ones who lay the foundation. God has done that for us and the foundation is Jesus Christ himself. What we build on the foundation of Jesus will ultimately be seen for what it is. So what actions, words, or spiritual practices make up the material with which you will go about building your life on Jesus, the firm foundation?

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- **Prayer Prompt: I can do all this through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4.13)**
- *Jesus Christ, Son of God, I want to build my life on you and upon every word you say. Speak to me and show me the Way this year. Amen.*

## TUESDAY: MATTHEW 7.24-27 (NIV)

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

- Building our lives on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ does not mean that rain won't come and winds won't blow against us. It does mean that we won't be defeated, we won't sink. Identify seasons of rain and wind in your life. In what ways has your connection to Jesus kept you afloat?

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- **Prayer Prompt: I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.” (Genesis 9.11)**
- *God, thank you for the gift of salvation. You have saved me from the storms of this world and are preparing me for a life with you. Amen.*

### **WEDNESDAY: ISAIAH 33.6 (NIV)**

*He will be the sure foundation for your times,  
a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge;  
the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.*

- The prophet Isaiah was writing about the coming Messiah (Jesus) long before the first Christmas. He was offering hope for those who followed God. He used a phrase that is translated as “fear of the Lord” to describe their godliness. Fearing God is not simply a fear of judgment and punishment, but also a sense of awe and reverence. It is about allowing God to be in God’s rightful position in our hearts and in our lives. Can you see how fearing God can lead to a great reward?

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- **Prayer Prompt: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (Proverbs 9.10)**
- *Lord God, I want to live with a constant sense of awe and reverence towards you. You have come close to me so that I can see your majesty. Amen.*

### **THURSDAY: 2 TIMOTHY 2.19 (NIV)**

*Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”*

- Paul’s message to Timothy is an encouragement to stand firm in the face of wickedness. We can stand firm because God’s solid foundation stands firm. It is hard to resist (or even notice) every form of wickedness that seems to be present at every turn, and so a reminder of where our feet are planted gives us the encouragement to keep going. Would you say that you are planted on solid ground right now? In what ways do you need help remaining on the firm foundation?

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- **Prayer Prompt: the Lord will show who belongs to him and who is holy, and he will have that person come near him. (Numbers 16.5)**
- *Almighty and loving God, may your holiness be reflected in my life today. I stand on your mercy and grace. Amen.*

## FRIDAY: EZRA 3.11 (NIV)

*With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord:*

*"He is good;  
his love toward Israel endures forever."*

*And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.*

- As the temple was being restored in the book of Ezra, the people had to take time to praise God. The building project was about the God who had been with them through times of exile. Before collecting materials for the building, they offered a sacrifice, and before they moved on to the exterior of the building they worshiped at the altar. We can get excited about projects and lose sight of the purpose for any building. Are there any projects that you are particularly focused on right now? Are you taking time to focus on the foundation that has already been laid?

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- **Prayer Prompt: "He is good;  
his love toward Israel endures forever." (Ezra 3.11)**
- *God, I love how your faithful people have turned to you at times of trial and times of rebuilding. May I have a heart of devotion like them. Amen.*

## SATURDAY: 1 PETER 2.4-6 (NIV)

*As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says:*

*"See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame."*

- Don't you love this image of living stones? We are being chiseled into the right shape and size for our place in the spiritual house with Jesus as our cornerstone. Sometimes we might be afraid to risk the shame of failure when it comes to stepping out for God. But the words quoted in 1 Peter remind us that those who trust in Jesus will never be put to shame. Let these words embolden you today.

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- **Prayer Prompt: *the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” (1 Peter 2.6)***
- *God, I want to risk more for your Kingdom. Fill me with confidence that comes from knowing who is the cornerstone of my life. Amen.*

## GROUP DISCUSSION

Take a few moments to memorize this short “Verse of the Year” from 1 Corinthians 3.11:  
***For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.***

- What are some other things that have served as the foundation for our lives?
- How can your group help you to keep Jesus as your firm foundation this year?
- What commitments would you like to make heading into the new year?