

## I. Review

Last week we started Psalms 18 and I told you this was David's Psalm. Also in 2 Samuel 22 same passage, he calls it his song. It was his song of victory that God gave him over his enemies. You see that a lot with David and what he is going through and the enemies he had. This particular Psalm deals with when he was going up against Saul. Inspirationally we see that this is a picture of what it should be in our lives. The victory we have in the warfare of the believer. Of course the warfare of the believer is laid out very clearly in Ephesians 6. When you look at David he is unique in many different ways. David is what I call a warrior king. He is a king yet he is a warrior. He finishes and subdues all the enemies of God that were left in the land. When Joshua came in he does a brilliant campaign in the book of Joshua in taking on all of the enemies of God. But he does not defeat them all.

By the time we get to David there is still some enemies that are in the land giving Israel problems. David becomes king and is also a warrior. He wipes out the last of the enemies of God that were standing against the nation of Israel. By finishing these battles, he sets up the nation of Israel's greatest time in history. This would be after David's 40 years, and his son Solomon comes on the throne, and he reigns 40 years. Because David has wiped out all the enemies in the land of Israel, Solomon has 40 years of establishing a kingdom that has no wars and is at peace. Which is a picture of the second coming of Christ and the millennium. David a type of Christ that at the second coming will wipe out all the enemies. Solomon then in his reign is the millennial reign where everything is at peace on earth. A tremendous parallel study.

### ➤ Like David, we are Warrior Kings

Having understood that inspirationally as it applies to you and me, I see in our warfare that we too are warrior kings. Right now, we are fighting a battle down here on the earth, but someday we are going to be joint heirs with Jesus Christ. We are going to reign with him. You see the parallels how David fought the last enemies of God and established the kingdom. We too are now fighting in these last days the last enemies of God. His was a literal warfare, kingdom of heaven. Ours is a spiritual warfare, kingdom of God. But we too are finishing the last of God's enemies. This will lead to Christ on the throne any moment now and the millennial reign of Christ. One of the most incredible parallels found in the Bible.

Along with that, down through church history there has always been a great debate on the true state of the church. The common man never had a problem with this, but people who are educated beyond their intelligence always seemed to have an issue. The issue was, what was the true church? Was it the spiritual body of Christ or was it the local New Testament church. They would go back and forth on all of that. When we take communion there are some churches that practice closed communion. That means if you are visiting and not an active member of that

church they won't allow you to take communion. Those are the kind of people that get messed up on the true church versus the local New Testament church. It is not hard to understand. All down through church history the real biblical line never had a problem with it. You are going to find down through history the church has been described in two parts. The first one is called the church militant. That is a local New Testament body of believers like this one here. They start at Antioch and go through church history. They do the work of God, and they fight the spiritual warfare. Hence they are called the church militant, military mindset. The second part of the church will be the church triumphant. The church triumphant will be the true body of Christ that all of us that are saved are in. The church militant will be different local churches all over the world that take a stand and fight and do everything they are supposed to do. That is the church militant. The church triumphant is everybody who is saved is in one body. This is what 1 Corinthians 12:13 means by one spirit are we all baptized into one body. That is the two understandings of the two different types of churches.

Last week we started Psalms 18, David's Psalms, his song of his victory. I told you that based on that there are **seven key areas** that we need to see and understand and then build them into our lives. There are a lot of places in the Bible that follow the outline of Psalms 18 verses 1-2. They set down a pattern, a progression of things that we need to build into our lives within the proper order. If you are a young Christian and you just got saved or just getting plugged in, this message is for you. This will help you realize that once you get saved sometimes God's people stay dormant for a while. They don't get involved in doing anything. Many times, they get caught up with something and it doesn't happen. Sometimes they get right in and get going.

Places like Psalms 18 show you the very beginning and the proper sequence of things that you want to add to your spiritual growth. Our last Patterns Class and the next one is dealing with New Testament biblical leadership. How to build leaders or what a leader should be. I told you then there are three key areas that come out of building the right relationship with Christ. It is what makes leaders work but it also ought to be in each of our lives.

## 1.) Structure

You need to have a structure in your life and that structure will be local New Testament church. It provides everything that you need. They provide the responsibility and accountability which we all need. You will find people who go through life without making themselves accountable to somebody (local church, word of God) are going to have some problems in their life. The number one breakdown in Christianity is that they have no structure.

## 2.) Discipline

After you build structure in your life then you got to be disciplined to it. Discipline is something that keeps you focused on the right things. Christ had twelve disciples. The word disciple comes from the word discipline. Those twelve disciples had disciplined themselves to His

teaching. If you are saved this morning, you are a disciple and you need to discipline yourself to the teachings too.

### 3.) Loyalty

Loyalty first of all to the word of God. Loyalty second to the Lord Jesus Christ. Loyalty, third of all to the structure of the New Testament local church. When you put those things into your life this is where you begin to see it work.

#### ➤ Leadership is Always Out in Front

In the military you have men who lead other men, and they are the leaders. The two groups within any military that are going to be leaders within the military will be the NCO's (non-commissioned officers), sergeants and the officers themselves. In most cases it is going to be lieutenants, captains and majors. What we call field grade officers. These are what provide the leadership. They are very important as leadership in anything is. If you would go back and look at some of the movies like Saving Private Ryan or Band of Brothers in WWII and even up into Korea. I don't think they do it today. But you would see on the back of their helmets a white stripe. An NCO would have a horizontal white stripe on the back of their helmet. The officers would have a white stripe one going up and down, vertical. That is so that when you are in combat, and you are in a tough situation you can look in front of you and you can see who is leading you. So that the leadership can be identified in any tough situation and that you can follow. They put it on the back because leadership is always out in front. That is a key thing that was all down through military history. The men who lead always need to be out in front and this is leadership in action.

#### ➤ Leadership is You Having the Victory First, then Leading Somebody Else to that Victory

When we get those seven areas in our lives, we too will have the victory and be able to lead others to that victory. Leadership is not just about come on follow me. We are going to go pass out tracks or come follow me we are going to do this. Leadership is you having the victory first in your life and then leading somebody else to that victory. That is where it starts. That is why it is so key to understand the good places in the Bible that actually build on a progression of things you need to have. But you want to remember before I ever started these seven last week, we had a kind of sit down talk about the Lord. I laid out the number one issue that will determine everything in your Christian life and that was in verse one where he says; "*I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.*" As I said last week, it all will be based on one question. **Do you really love the Lord Jesus Christ?** That is the question. Or like Israel in Isaiah 29, do you just give Him lip service and your heart is far from Him.

Also last week I took you into the key book for all of this in the book of 1 John and I showed you that the theme of 1 John is knowing Christ. Getting to know Him and then based on knowing

Him, learning to love Him. There is a real problem between us and God and that problem is one that many times is why people don't make it. They don't understand this. Isaiah 55:8 says this about God and you and me. It says that His ways are not my ways. It says that His thoughts are not my thoughts. There is such a distance between the way God thinks and the way I think. There is such a vast space between the way He looks at things and does things and the way I look at things and I do things. This is the fundamental problem. This is what needs to be bridged. This is what needs to happen in every believer's life or we are not going anywhere. Most of God's people are at odds with God all their life. They get into all kinds of goofy situations that many times can be catastrophic. They go from one problem to another because they are operating without understanding of the way God looks at it. I believe some of them are saved and are good people. I believe that they want to do what is right. But let me tell you something there is a gap between me and God. His ways are not my ways. His thoughts are not my thoughts. I look at something and think this way, He looks at the same thing and He sees it differently. The job of every child of God is to know Him and as you know Him, you know the way He thinks. You know what He loves. You know what He hates. In time as we build these seven things in our lives, we begin to look at things and see them the way He does. His thoughts do become our thoughts. His ways do become our way. The end result will be 1 Corinthians 8:3

*But if any man love God, the same is known of him. [1Corinthians 8:3]*

You come to that place in your life when you truly love God the right way, by knowing Him. That it makes such a difference in your life. It makes such an impact not only in your life but in the lives of others. That is the key! You may not all be leaders in a church, or a pastor someday or whatever, but every Christian ought to be a leader in one thing. You ought to be able to lead others to the victory that you have in your life. But it goes back to you loving Him with all your heart, with all your mind and all your soul, and sometimes all your strength. If you don't develop the right love for Him then you are not going to make it.

I have worked over the years with a lot of couples that have marital problems and have issues. Some of them make it, many of them do not. We live in a day and age where divorce is so easy and because people don't find out about the person they are marrying or don't take the time to look at the differences. It is just like God. A woman looks at things different than a man does and a man looks at it differently than she does. If you don't put those two together you are going to have some problems. In some cases, they actually make it and get through it. Basically they get through it because they have a fundamental structure in that marriage. They understand fundamentally what marriage is and what God wants to do with it. His role and her role and they can make it through and stay together. You will see families that will have issues within their own family and yet they have the ability to work through it and move forward. Why is that? How is that? It is because in both cases they truly love each other. They truly want the best for each other. They may have all kinds of issues because they haven't done what is right and they have no structure. But there is a fundamental basic love there and that is what gets them through. In 1 Corinthians 13 is the great chapter on charity, yet you are going to find in every new Bible

on the market outside of the King James Bible, they took the liberty to take the word charity out and put the word “love” in its place. This is the 21th century Christian mindset of love. Love is such a mis-used butchered word today. The modern people today don’t understand the difference between charity and love. We use the word “love” in a thousand different ways, but charity can only be used in one way and that is why your Kings James translators put the word charity in when it is talking about real biblical love. Because charity is love unconditional. Charity wants nothing back. Charity is the love that is expressed by what God did for us. He loved us when we were unlovable. Most of us didn’t come to salvation the first time it was introduced to us. Most of us probably had a problem with Christianity or Christ and it took a while for God to break down those walls. But you know what the Lord said back in the Old Testament in Isaiah, he says

*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Isaiah 1:18*

He didn’t just write us off, he had charity for you and me. He loved us unconditionally when we were still unlovable and we worked through it. Didn’t we? See the word is charity and when you have that word charity and understand it you have charity within your marriage, charity within your family. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 13:7-8 that charity--

*7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.  
8 Charity never faileth: but whether [there be] prophecies, they shall fail; whether [there be] tongues, they shall cease; whether [there be] knowledge, it shall vanish away.*

This is why love will fail you because you have the wrong definition. Charity will never fail because charity comes down to the very motive of why you love what you love. That is the key! The reason they make it is they love each other enough that nothing is going to split them up. They may have some issues; they may have some problems. But when the love is there, the right love not lust. Biblical based love based on charity. Families, marriages simply say nothing is going to split us up. It should be the same way with us with our relationship with Christ and our love for Him. You know Him, and you begin to love Him based on you knowing Him. Then you come to a place where nothing or nobody on this planet is going to split you up. **If you are not rooted** in the biblical love for Him, by knowing Him, then it is just like we saw last week. It is just lip service, it means nothing. That is why you see so many of God’s people who claim to be saved. But all of their life they have never won anybody to Christ, they never do any ministry for the Lord. They just take everything that God has for them and give absolutely nothing back.

## II Psalms 18:1-2

With last week in mind let’s begin to look at these seven areas. The building blocks of our relationship with Christ, built on our love for Him. I am going to read Psalms 18:1-2 and the introduction before it.

*To the chief Musician, [A Psalm] of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day [that] the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said*

*1 I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.*

*2 **The LORD [is] my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, [and] my high tower.***

I want to break these seven concepts down into an understandable format that you can apply in your own life. So, you can go out of here and week by week you can take one or two as we go through them and see where they fit in. We have laid the basics about loving Him and I said earlier these are the building blocks of a relationship with Christ. If you are ever going to get to the place that you know Him, understand the Bible and be productive for what He wants you to do. Have those three things, structure, discipline and loyalty.

### 1.) The Lord is My Rock

The first thing he says here is “*The Lord is my rock...*” In the Old Testament for Israel their Rock was God. In the New Testament for you and me our Rock is Christ. It is the difference between God dealing with the nation of Israel as His people and Christ dealing with you and me as His people. Deuteronomy 32:4 says talking about God.

***[He is] the Rock, his work [is] perfect: for all his ways [are] judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right [is] he.***

Down in Deuteronomy 32:31 it talks about the fact that there were different rocks. We covered this a while ago where it says that their rock is not my Rock. There are some false rocks out there that people will put their faith in the wrong things. When you get into the New Testament dealing with you and me, it is Christ. God deals with us through Christ. In the Old Testament God didn't deal with them through Christ. God dealt with them as a man speaketh, like Moses spoke face to face. He dealt with the prophets through dreams and visions. You don't have that today. 1 Corinthians 10:4 says,

*And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and **that Rock was Christ.***

In the New Testament our Rock is Christ. In the Old Testament their Rock was God. When you begin to build these seven biblical truths in your life the first thing he is telling us is that we need to build them on a sure solid unmovable foundation. We sing the song, “*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me Let Me Hide Myself in Thee*” and “*Jesus is the Rock in a Weary Land.*” There are many songs that deal with that. When we begin to talk about those three areas, structure, discipline and loyalty, these will go back and begin with the foundation that we will lay in our lives.

1 Corinthians Chapter 3 is a great passage, and the context is the judgment seat of Christ. But he starts with the day that you and I get saved and then he tells us that there are some certain things we need to build in our lives after we get saved. He tells us about the foundation, and he says there is no other foundation that can be laid other than Jesus Christ, 1 Corinthians 3:11.

*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

In other words, the day you got saved the Rock of your salvation is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the foundation and then the rest of your Christian life you build on that. In 1 Corinthians 3 it says gold, silver and precious stones because he is talking about the judgment seat of Christ. But in your daily walk and building your relationship with God, once you love Him the way you should, you realize that He is the Rock. He becomes your foundation, and everything else you build, you build on that foundation. It is just that simple.

Here at our church (Old Paths Baptist Church) we follow that. We may have somebody come into our church or somebody who just got saved. We have people that have been at other churches for years and never really got any Bible and haven't grown. We specialize in that because if a person is saved, they have laid the foundation. You are in the best position to do something with them. What do we start with? We start with the basics. We start with Discipleship I. Discipleship I will give you the key concepts in Christianity out of the Bible that you need to understand. We go through up to fifteen of those and by the time we are done with Discipleship I you have a fundamental understanding on your foundation of what Christianity is all about. There are still a lot of things to learn and each one of those fifteen can be a study into itself. But you are on your way to building on that foundation the fundamental basic things. Then if people so desire, we go to Discipleship II. Discipleship II is another level once you get Discipleship I down and you learn the basics, then Discipleship II looks inwardly. Where Discipleship I is an outward understanding, Discipleship II is an inward understanding. We talk about in a personal level the seven things that changed about you the day you got saved. How the Bible says you are a new creature in Christ Jesus old things have passed away all things become new. What are those new things? We talk about that and you learn about them. So now what you are doing is we are building on Discipleship I, we are building on that foundation.

Last year I put together Discipleship III, the third level. I was planning on teaching that, but we got into the Patterns Class, which I thought was more important based on where we were at as a church. But you guys pick up the ball and got the lessons and there are several of you out there that are teaching people that. Discipleship III takes you to the next level which shows you the Bible in its complete layout. If you do the work, to get all three of those down, you are going to have a complete understanding of the fundamentals and of what changed about you, and then God's plan as it lays out through the whole Bible. It doesn't get any better than that. Then you add to that Sunday morning like today. Thursday night we cover the questions that you can add to that. Then we have the special classes like the Patterns Class, Bible Institute, Church History, and the website. Everything that you need. But all of that goes on the foundation.

But there will be no sure foundation in your life until you first love Him the way the Bible says that we need to love Him. The way He loves us. I know no greater place that illustrates this than in Matthew chapter 7. I have told you before for every principle that I give you there is going to be a story in the Bible somewhere that is going to illustrate that principle. In the gospel of Matthew 7 you have the story of two men and the foundation that each one of them built on. This story is also given in Luke 6:48-49. You will want to get both of them together because they are just a little different. One adds to the other. But this story is a simple illustration of a great principle. An example that we are talking about today because I am telling you the first thing you have to do once you really believe and know you love Him, you have got to build on that foundation in your life. You must build a solid unmovable foundation in your life that you can begin to build on that foundation everything that God wants you to know. Everything that God wants you to be. Let's read Matthew 7:24

*24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, **which built his house upon a rock:***  
*25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: **for it was founded upon a rock.***  
*26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, **which built his house upon the sand: (There is the alternative)***  
*27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and **beat upon that house;** and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*  
*28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:*

They understood listening to this great principle that was involved, and it shows you the importance of the word doctrine.

*For he taught them as [one] having authority, and not as the scribes. Matthew 7:29*

This so true. The key about the Lord Jesus Christ and the key about the Bible will be two things. The word of God will be the final authority in your life or it needs to be, and it contains the doctrine that we need. We see this in Proverbs, and I have told you how that the whole Bible is this way. We find our two men, a wise man and a foolish man. That is what the book of Proverbs is about. Throughout your Bible you are going to find these two types of men. Throughout life you are going to find these two types of people. In Luke 6:48-49 it tells the same story, but it adds a few things here. It adds the Rock is his foundation. It tells you that it is the foundation of his house in verse 48.

*He is like a man which **built an house,** and **digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock:** and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was **founded upon a rock.** Luke 6:48*



The fact that he dug it deep. So it isn't the fact that this Rock becomes his foundation, but he digs down deep that foundation. These two men show us two different foundations that people are going to put in their life and then try to build on. One man is wise and one man is foolish. You get to decide which one you are.

One man builds on the wrong foundation. This will be the worldly man that we looked at in Psalms 17. It says his house. We need to look at that for a moment. This will represent two things for us. First of all, it will represent his own spiritual body. 2 Corinthians 5:1-2

*1 For we know that if our earthly **house (there is your body)** of [this] tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an **house** not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.  
2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our **house** which is from heaven:*

Clearly showing you that one of the understandings of this story is about our body. What are you going to build in your life? What are you going to base the stability or instability of your life on? We have here a reference to a man's body and the context here obviously is the judgment seat of Christ. This man is a picture of the foolish man. He is a picture of an unsaved man who has no salvation on the Rock or Christ. Doctrinally this man is Israel in two ways. Israel who followed God was the wise man, listened to him. The foolish man who did not and wound up making a mess out of his life. Inspirationally it will be about you and me. Some of God's people today will be wise. They will put the Bible in their life. They will get the structure of their life. They will get everything they need and God will bless them and use them. Others will build it on the wrong foundation. It is just that simple.

It tells us that when the storms of life come, the rain, the floods, the wind that beat upon his house, that will be a picture of your life and mine going through life. Being beat up by everything the world wants to do to us. All the bad situations that you have to work through. Sometimes they come because we make bad choices. Sometimes they just come because that is the way life is. When the storms of life come and they will, verse 27 tells us that his house fell and great was the fall of it. I like Luke 6:49 adds a little postscript here in the same story but adds in "the ruin of that house was great." I have seen that so many times in people's lives over the years. They just wind up with every problem that an unsaved man can have. I can clearly tell you the reason why that is—**wrong foundation!**

You can also make this inspirationally not only your body but your own house physically. Your family. Not building your family on a sure foundation which is the Rock. In both cases they will lay a foundation on sand. There is absolutely no stability in sand. Sand shifts, it changes everything sinks into it. There is nothing for the foundation to hold on. It goes with the shifting sand and with the winds. As I said before, this is the simple answer as to why so many of God's people don't make it. God saved us for a purpose. In the world today, people don't like to hear the fact that God saved you for a purpose. When I say you are not going to make it, I am not

meaning God is going to come down and kill you. I am saying that you are not going to make it as far as fulfilling what God wanted you to do. I don't know where this idea ever came from that God just saved you so you could serve yourself. All you got to do is look back on your life and see the divorces, the messes, the problems. God's people are like Baskin-Robbins that has thirty-one flavors. God's people have thirty-one flavors of denial. They don't want to see their real condition and they don't want to do anything about it. This is the answer. The wrong foundation in people's lives. The Bible story here is about two men. Life is about two men. The wise man will build his house on a Rock. That is a picture of a man getting saved and laying the foundation (1 Corinthians 3) and building on it. We have looked at this verse many times in Isaiah 28:13 where it says line upon line, precept upon precept. Building the building blocks of your Christian life that you put on that foundation.

*But the word of the LORD was unto them **precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line;** here a little, [and] there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. Isaiah 28:13*

You know what you are building? You are building a wall. I will tell you why this wall is important in a little bit. When you get saved you lay that foundation Isaiah 28 likens it to getting the Bible doctrine and then like somebody taking concrete building blocks and laying them on that foundation. When you are building a building, you are laying upon that foundation and putting another course on top of it, another course on top of that, and pretty soon you have a wall. Every one of those building blocks is a biblical principle or something about God that you learn that you build on that foundation. In time you build a wall. As you build on that foundation it becomes solid, stable, and unmovable.

Last week I showed you that it all goes back to being based on you knowing Him and loving Him. Right relationships will always produce the right foundation. Wrong relationships will always produce the wrong foundation. Whether it is life, whether it is marriage, or whether it is a relationship with Christ. Again, this will also be a reference to a man's house and his family. Through his leadership and the wisdom of the word of God and building his house, he builds his family on the Rock. In this case the storms will come too. Verse 25 says even if you build your house on a Rock, the storms are still going to come. The devil is going to try to stop you. The rain is going to descend. The floods are going to come, the winds are going to blow and it is going to beat upon your house. The world will still attack you and try to stop you. You know the word of God, salvation, your relationship, building a foundation, will not make the storms go away. But they will get you through them when they come. Once you love Him with all your heart, mind and soul, you begin to lay the right foundation.

## 2.) Building a Fortress

Now we have got some things down. We got the concept of loving Him right and laying the foundation. Now let's talk about what we are going to build on that foundation. Proper

sequence. Once you get the foundation laid and you start to build the building blocks from Isaiah 28, what do you build first? What is the first thing that you are going to begin to build? He tells you if you look at the progression. **It is a fortress!** You build a fortress that will protect you of what you have in the Bible. Most of God's people may believe things about the Bible and believe things about God, but they couldn't explain as to why they believe it. You know why? Because the fact that they don't know why they believe, because they have never built a fortress on that foundation to protect what they have. The defense in your life. In any country and certainly in Christianity and in your family, when it comes to defending yourself there must be a first line of defense. When the opposition comes up against something that stops them or at least slows them down.

In early America as we moved out west to take on new lands we had to deal with the Native American Indians. They were not happy about the way America, the government, treated them. Nor should they have been. They were lied to, deceived, and promises were broken. But when you look at it you see they didn't bother anybody until we started taking from them, lying to them, and exploiting them. As we moved west the Army built forts. I think right now we have over forty forts in America. One of the oldest forts is right up here in Fort Leavenworth. But you know what, that fort was built in 1827, one hundred ninety-eight years ago. This was the fort where everybody launched from. When Custer was destroyed in 1876, it was at Fort Abraham Lincoln in North Dakota territory they had moved out that far. These forts were for the early pioneers and settlers to get what they needed to protect them against the attacks of the Indians. Because the Indians would run up and down the range and would massacre settlers. They would kill them, burn their homes, take their wives and children captive. It was a terrible deal. So, they built forts as a defensive position to protect them.

In time across America today we have over forty of them all across this country. Back in the 1800's they had high walls. You have seen it, Fort Apache the big timbers up there that made the wall with a gate that kept the Indians out. It kept you safe inside. The walls of these forts that were made to protect them from the danger that was out there. But also, behind those forts was an army, a garrison of soldiers that would put down any attack. It wasn't just an empty fort that you could go in and hide. There was an army garrison back there of men that lived in that fort. Look at that from an inspirational application of us laying a foundation and then the first thing we build is a fortress. When you build your fortress not only will it keep you safe from the attack, but the soldiers on the inside will be the principles and the promises that you get out of the word of God.

### ➤ A Mighty Fortress for Our God

We sing a song "*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*". We sing "*Hold the Fort for I Am Coming*". You look back in the Old Testament times it is the same back there. Every city back then that was a major city was a literal fortress. They built walls around those cities. Because back then it was an easy thing for one group to attack another group and take them over. Or one nation would

overtake another nation. But they built walls around these cities. Jerusalem had walls around it that some historians say were 60ft high and 30ft thick. When Nebuchadnezzar came down to finally take Jerusalem it took him 2 ½ years to do that. What happened back then was they couldn't breach the walls, so they surrounded the place and just starved them out. Then they breached the walls and destroyed Jerusalem.

➤ Our Life Should be Fortified with the Principles & Promises of the Word of God

I told you a couple of weeks ago that there was a two-prong attack of the devil. The first thing that he will do is oppress you. He compassed them about and after a period of time then he oppressed them. He went in and he broke down the walls and the gates. The picture here will be your life as a Christian needs to be fortified with the principles and the promises of the word of God. Building the walls of your fortress with the principles. This is what we were talking about. I told you I would come back to the walls here in a moment. When you lay the foundation and you get saved you start learning your Bible through discipleship I, and Discipleship II, every one of those things you learn is going to be a building block on your foundation. You keep learning, you keep growing, the wall gets higher, and it gets thicker. Pretty soon you have a fortress in your life, and nobody is going to breach that wall. You are going to be safe behind it, but you are also going to have the principles that you can go on the attack. Because a fort will be offensive in nature, but it will also be defensive in nature. You protect yourself on the inside, but you are ready to go on the attack if you have to go on the offensive. We are a fortified fixed position, steadfast and unmovable as the child of God with a foundation laid in your life. You building on that foundation, the first thing, a mighty fortress for God.

➤ Old Paths Baptist Church, a Fortress of Truth, of the Word of God, and God's Grace

Here in this church, we look at a church as a fortress. Not only is it what you build in your own life, but just like there were forts built across this country to protect us. There should be New Testament local churches that are based on the foundation of the word of God where you can have safety in and get trained to be everything God wants you to be. To fortify yourself. That is what churches really ought to be. The church militant is that concept. Jesus Christ is the captain of our salvation. We are told to endure a hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Why? Because this church is a fortress. A fortress of truth, a fortress of the word of God, a fortress of God's grace. It is here that you learn like Psalms 144:1 where he says,

***Blessed [be] the LORD my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, [and] my fingers to fight.***

Here is where you learn to put on the armor of God that you too can stand against the evil day and the wiles of the devil as he says in Ephesians 6. You learn how to put on your loins girt about with truth. You learn to understand what the breastplate of righteousness is. You learn

how to have your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. You know how to use the shield of faith that quench all those fiery darts that are going to come your way. You understand the helmet of salvation and how it impacts your life. Certainly, the sword of the Spirit by which you use the word of God. Then praying always. Learning how to use those things in Fort Old Paths.

At one time, across this country there were New Testament local churches who understood the church militant and that is exactly what they did. They were a fortress that you could come in and through that process of getting your training, you build in your life to be its own fortress. You build your family to be its own fortress, and nothing will ever come between you and God. Nothing will ever come between you to split you guys up. The church militant. This church and other churches across this country like it. When Mike comes down here, the reason why I want you to hook up with them is because those guys are a militant church. They are the church militant all the way across the east coast into Boston. But they are a like faith. They believe what we believe, and the church militant is going to hold the fort till He gets here. Just like all the forts across America were designed to protect Americans and are supposed to today. Churches should be a fortress built on a Rock to protect God's people and to teach them how to build their life on their foundation, a fortress!

### ➤ We as Soldiers Need to Stay in the Fight, Stay in the Battle

Have you ever noticed in the last twenty years or so the effect to destroy the military forts and the military mindset across this country? It is unbelievable. We come to the place where we see the woke mindset has worked its way into the military. Many of the generals that were four-star generals, three-star generals, embrace the woke mindset. One of the things you need to understand about the military is the fact that you come up through the ranks as an officer and you become a first lieutenant, second lieutenant, captain, a major lieutenant, colonel and then you become a full bird colonel. The next step is to get your first star which they call a brigadier. Then from a brigadier you get two stars. Then from the two stars you get three stars and from three stars you get four stars. Once you get that first star you cease being a soldier. You can talk to any NCO, anybody that has been in the military for any length of time and they will tell you this is true. You know why? Because now you want your second star. Once you get your second star you want the third star and once you become a general, you enter into the world that runs the military that the common guy never has anything to do with in the military, politics. . You want what all goes with the upper level three-star, four-star generals and to do that you have got to be political. You have got to put away your soldier's uniform, even though you still wear it and now everything has to be political. You have to bend with the political wind to get that next star and this is the problem we have. You have seen in the news some of the generals have been stripped of their security clearance because of the fact that they got caught up in the politics of it. From one sense they are still in the military, but they ceased being a soldier.

This is what happens in Christianity. A Christian soldier and a pastor should never get past the rank of major if we are going to put in in a military jargon. You come to the place where you stay in the fight and in the battle. But once you get educated beyond your intelligence and they get their three stars, you get your PhD, they get their four stars. You get your higher education you both do the same thing you dump the Book, and you get into politics. That is the way it works. We are soldiers and we are part of the church militant.

I look at some of you guys and gals and I think about everything in military terms. I look at some of you and I see my first sergeant. The first sergeant is probably the greatest position to have in the military. You have more authority than any four-star general and you have none of the responsibility. You run everything. I look at some of you as lieutenants and captains. I look at some of you that on the back of your spiritual helmet you got a vertical bar. Some of you got a horizontal bar. People follow you. You are a leader. You lead in your family first and people see it.

I have watched over the last twenty years the funding of the military. The closing of forts. In 1960 the American military was almost 4 million strong. Today it is 1.3 million strong. Russia is almost 4 million strong and as we speak China almost 3 million strong. I have seen the whole decline across this country just like we have seen it in Christianity. Yet the average military grunt soldier is an incredible professional. It is not his fault. Everything rises and falls on leadership. The reason as to why we are so depleted today is because during COVID-19 they wanted to make everybody get the shot in the military. Anybody in the military that refused to get their shot they got kicked out of the military. Thousands of good soldiers, because they wouldn't be politically correct. Churches are the same way. God's fortress, the New Testament local churches are falling apart. The church militant has become the church malignant. Look at Isaiah 33:6 this is one of my favorite promises to me. I probably look at this if not once a day, three or four times a week.

*And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, [and] strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD [is] his treasure. Isaiah 33:6*

You know what we need today? You know what this church has in the times that we live in? Wisdom and knowledge. It is our stability. It will be your stability. The stability of a sure foundation built upon a Rock. Then building a fortress on that Rock a place to protect you and your family. To train you for the warfare of the believer. These seven key components we are going to look at over the next couple of weeks. If you build them in your life, it will produce a life that's unmovable and steadfast. Rock solid relationship with Christ first, the word of God second and your New Testament local church. It is the fortress by which you get trained in. A soundness in a world of complete confusion and total breakdown.

- Building Your Foundation on Sound Doctrine
  - Which will Produce a Sound Mind

Paul said it in his final analysis when he was talking about it to Timothy and Titus, the boys that he trained. He told them what you need to have first, a life of sound doctrine 1 Timothy 1:10. Have your Bible on that foundation. The second thing he said in 2 Timothy 1:7 once you get sound doctrine that will produce a sound mind, and you will begin to see things the way God sees them.

- Adding to a Sound Mind, a Sound Faith
  - Which will Produce Sound Words

Then he told them in Titus 1:13 once you get the sound mind; the next thing it will produce is sound faith. You will know why you believe what you believe, and nobody will talk you out of it. The next thing he says in 2 Timothy 1:13 once you get that sound faith, then you have the ability to seek sound words. Now you can go on the attack and you can talk to somebody else about it.

- Adding to Sound Words will Produce Sound Speech
  - Which will Produce Sound Wisdom & Sound Discretion

That will give you a sound speech in Titus 2:8. You know what you are talking about. The victory then when you get those things in your life based on the foundation and your fortress will ultimately give you Proverbs 3:21, sound wisdom and sound discretion. This is what building a fortress on the right foundation with the right building blocks will give you. All built on the Rock of my salvation. No other foundation can a man lay which is laid which is Jesus Christ. Building a fortress for my God, my life and my family all through my fortress and the fortress of the New Testament local church. The church militant.

### III. Summary

The victory of the Christian life will allure so many of God's people. Yet it is something that everyone can have. The idea is simple. If you want something you have never had—the victory in Christ. If you want something you have never had you must do some things you have never done. You must change some things.

I was driving up through the southern end of Raytown the other day and I drove by our old house. I hadn't seen it in years, and it looked so small to what I remembered it to be and to what I have now. We lived in that house for several years and then the house just didn't work for us anymore and we had to get a new house. We moved out of that old house and into the new house. That is what some of God's people need to do. You need to move out of the old house you are living in and move into a new house. The old house isn't working for you anymore. The

old house has too many repairs that need to be done. The old house has cracks in its foundation and the roof is leaking. You need to move out of the old house and move into the new house. You need to leave behind the old house with all its memories and things that were bad and look at the new house God has for you. How exciting it is going to be with all the new things that God has done for you.

I love the organization, Tunnels to Towers Foundation, that builds houses for these veterans. Some of these guys are disfigured, some are blind, some have lost their legs, hands and arms. They take these guys and build them a brand-new house to meet their needs. Showers for a man who has no legs. A stove that pull out and come down because they are in a wheelchair. These veterans go through and can't believe all that somebody has provided for them.

Let me tell you something. Some of you are paraplegic when it comes to spirituality. Some of you have lost your legs, that is why you are not walking for the Lord. Some of you have lost both arms and hands. That is why you are not in your Bible. The war of this world has tried to destroy you, and you know what? You are still living in that old house. You need to look at the new house God's got for you. Everything is just perfect for you. He designed that new house with you in mind and everything that God wants you to be. Why are you still living in that old house? You need to move today. It is never too late to build a new house. You say, how do I do that? Just come and see me. I have probably 120 expert movers right here that will box it up, ship it out or throw away what you don't need. We will load it up and get you into that new house. There is no excuse because that is what God wants for you. **But it all starts with, do you really love Him?** If you really love Him, you lay the foundation. Most of you probably have already done that. All we need to do is clean off all the junk on the foundation and start building the new. Gods house for you that you have to build on a sure foundation that will give you steadfastness, building it on the Rock. Then building the fortress. That is what God has for you.