How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? (Rom 10:14)

## EXAMINE YOURSELF

BY BILL POWELL


A lesson I learned as I got older in life is that our strengths can be our greatest weaknesses. That usually gets the eyebrows up! Let me explain. Take for example kindness. Not wanting to offend or hurt anyone's feelings is a good thing, right? Maybe that is not what is needed at the time, and what they need is tough love. Many times, being nice gets you taken advantage of. Yes, we should be nice, and it is a good trait. What about helping someone out of a jam financially for one thing or another? Giving a helping hand is good. Often the results can be you are enabling someone or prolonging the inevitable. What about the times someone wants to help but you say, "No, that's alright. I can manage." Being selfsufficient is a good trait. Is your pride depriving someone of their need to do a good deed?

We should always strive to model good behavior. I like to think it's not enough to have strengths that are positive and good, but it is important to know how and when to use them. I have a filter I try to use to help me decide. I ask myself, "Is what I am going to say or do going to bring about the result that is needed?" If you give someone a helping hand, and it will help in a pinch, yes you should. Is it going to just be enabling someone, and I am just another person keeping them from addressing their problem? I say, no.

Have you ever heard someone say, "Yes, I am...to a fault" ? Like being careful with a dollar and being a good steward. You could just be cheap and selfish.

Remember the guy who thought he would just build bigger barns. Are you frugal to a fault? Also, being generous is good but can be done to a fault.

As usual, as you start looking at Scripture, a small article like this only scratches the surface. Here are a few scriptures to think about. A book or a sermon can easily be created from our strengths and weaknesses. Well, I am out of time and space here. Got to get back to working really hard and being productive. Oh, unless it neglects my faith and family.
(2Co 13:5 KJV) Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye, not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?
(Lam 3:40 KJV) Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.
(Rom 14:16 KJV) Let not then your good be evil spoken of:

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I hope that you are learning to love the Bible and its truth more and more as you seek regularly to open and dive into its depths. One truth from the Scripture pages that I have been pondering lately is this idea of a heavenly home- the place where those who love and follow Christ will live in eternity. Apostle Paul to the Corinthians contrasts our eternal house in heaven to our temporary tent on earth (2 Cor 5). Apostle Peter says that our inheritance as God's children is not on earth, but instead reserved in heaven (1 Pet 1). And Jesus is more specific about our heavenly home as John recorded..."My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?" (John 14:2). The Bible calls Christians sojourners, foreigners, and citizens of heaven.

Scriptures make it clear to me that where I am living now is NOT my home, which brings me great comfort. I am just passing through. We are ALL just passing through. If it's bad right now, our future is good. And if it's good right now, our future is better. It may seem a long journey some days, and other days it may be so fast you can't catch your breath! Maybe you have been walking a while in this truth, and every day that the Father has seen to wake you from sleep is a gentle reminder that you are still on your journey with good work to do for Him and His glory. Like Peter, you live out your time as a foreigner here in reverent fear of the Lord. And like Paul, you make it your aim to please Him (2 Cor 5:9). Until you reach your heavenly home, have joy in the journey.
Remember these songs from our station over the years?
"Not Home Yet"- by Steven Curtis Chapman
"Finally Home"- by Kerry Roberts
"In My Father's House"- Keith \& Krystin Getty
"Big, Big House" by The Newsboys


# Q. Solid Rock Or <br> Sinking Sand? <br> BY CHRISTINA HUTCHINSON 

Building a strong foundation in life is crucial, and the Bible provides us with wisdom and guidance on how to do so. Matthew 7:24-27 tells the story of two builders, one who built his house on a solid foundation of rock and the other who built his house on sand.

The wise builder who built on rock represents those who hear God's words and put them into practice, creating a solid foundation for their lives. When the storms of life come, their foundation remains strong and unshakable, allowing them to weather any adversity. The foolish builder who built on sand represents those who hear God's words but do not put them into practice. When the storms of life come, their foundation crumbles and their life falls apart.

This powerful message reminds us that true wisdom and strength come from living a life based on God's teachings. By following His word and building our lives on a solid foundation, we can withstand any challenge that comes our way.

In today's fast-paced and ever-changing world, it's easy to get caught up in the The second part of the verse encourages chaos and forget what really matters. We us to commit our ways to the Lord and must remember to prioritize our trust in Him. This means surrendering relationship with God and build our lives control of our lives to God and putting on His teachings, so that we can live with strength, wisdom, and purpose.

This makes me think about Psalm 37:4-5 it reads: "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act." This verse encourages us to find joy in our relationship with God and to trust that He will provide for li us. It reminds us that when we commit c our lives to Him and trust in His plan, He trus will act on our behalf. One of the key c messages in this verse is the importance of delighting in the Lord.

This means finding joy and fulfillment in our relationship with God, rather than seeking happiness in worldly pursuits. When we focus on delighting in the Lord, we align our desires with His will and open ourselves up to the blessings He wants to give us. our faith in His plan, even when we don't understand it. When we trust in God, we can be confident that He will act on our behalf and provide for us in ways that we could never imagine.

Overall, both passages are powerful reminders of the importance of trusting in God's plan for our lives. Building our lives on His Word, delighting in the Lord, committing our ways to Him, and trusting in His plan, we can live with confidence and purpose, knowing that He will provide for us and guide us every step of the way.

Seek Eternal Rewards<br>BY BRANDON SCHMIDT

Recently, Josiah's soccer team completed a perfect undefeated season and won first place in their division. The kids were ecstatic and so were the parents. We were so proud of them, they worked hard during practices and in games. This little adventure got me thinking about our own Christian lives. Many of us spend hours and hours laboring and pursuing noble tasks like advancing our careers, exercising to be healthier, or a myriad of other things. However, it made me think, do we give that same devotion and attention to our spiritual lives? We are so eager to work hard for a career or train for a marathon, yet when it comes to our devotion to Christ, it can at times be placed on the back burner. We work hard for careers that we know will come to an end and we train for medals that will collect dust or soon be tarnished, but lack in our Bible study, prayer life, or devotion to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus reminds us in His Sermon on the Mount, that we should store up for ourselves treasures in heaven and not on earth. (Matt. 6:19-24) In Paul's letter to Timothy, he urges his son in the faith to pursue godliness, because it 'holds the promise for the present life and also for the life to come.' (I Tim. 4:8) We should pursue Godliness above earthly matters. We should be more concerned with being faithful than famous. It is my solemn prayer that you examine your walk with the Lord and humbly press into Him more, for when you do, you will find sweeter riches than anything the world could ever offer. If you need help or encouragement with growing a deeper walk with the Lord, give us a call or email me and I would love to help get you some good resources to aid you on your journey!


We pray for this year's hurricane season. That it would be less active and less destructice. As fathers day approaches, we pray for all the fathers out there, that they may feel loved and appreciated. Please bless our families with health, happiness, and safety this summer. Guide us through any challenges we may face, and may we always remember to be grateful for the time we have with our loved ones. Amen.

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