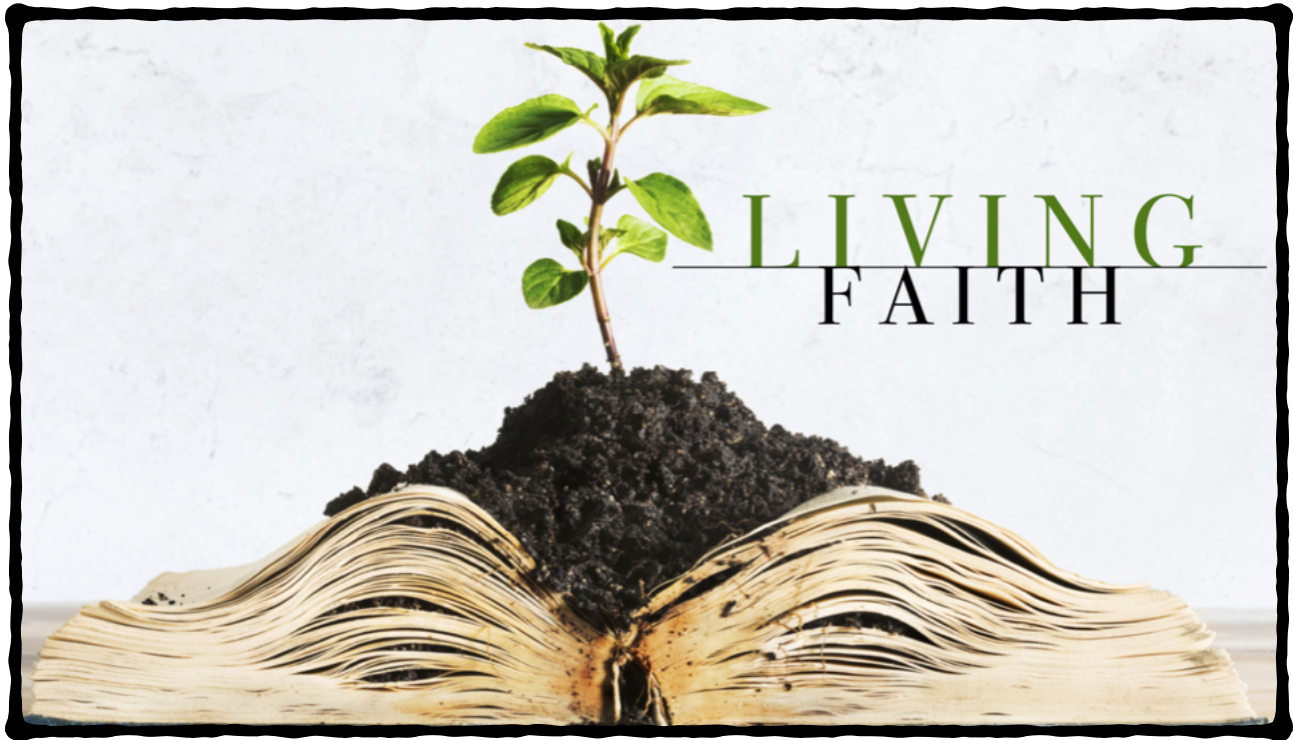

WORSHIP @ HOME



FOOLISH BUILDERS

Preparing for worship:

Christian meditation music <http://www.viewpure.com/66USuf9BaYc?start=0&end=0>

Take a few moments to be still and speak to the Lord.

The Greeting:

ALL: 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN'. Our tradition is to cross ourselves as this is said.

Opening prayer and lighting the candle:

O Blessed Lord, accept this burning candle as a sign of our faith and love for you. Make us open to your Word. Make us loyal and faithful to you, regardless of the circumstances of our lives.

ALL: Amen.

Bible Reading:

A reading from Matthew 7:26-28

But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, the wind blew hard against that house, and it fell. And what a terrible fall that was!

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

A message:



Do you know where this building is and what it is famous for?

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is a beautiful building made out of the finest marble. No expense was spared on the building and some of the most skilled craftsman of their day were employed in the build. So what on earth went wrong?



You may be thinking it must have been due to bad design, inferior grade marble or perhaps poor workmanship, but you would be wrong. The problem was with what lies beneath. The sandy soil on which the city of Pisa is built was just not stable enough to support a monument of this scale. The tower had no foundations. It is unfortunately famous for its weakness. Its historic tilt! The tower has undergone various experiments to keep it from tilting further. Many have enjoyed walking up to the top through its winding

staircases and taking a picture 'holding up the falling tower'!

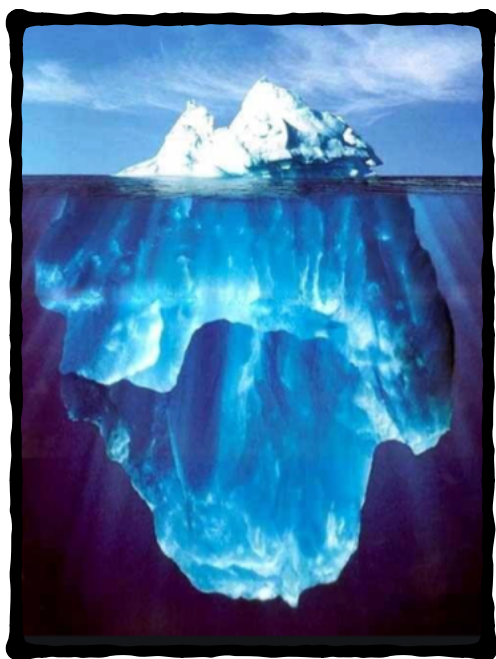
We start this series with a Bible story most of us will know, but which is extremely relevant to this message. Jesus told a story about building a house on sand. At first all seemed fine and there were no problems, but then the wind, rain and tide came in. The

house then collapsed because the foundations were weak. We can build our lives on weak foundations which can appear to give us an easy time, until troubles come our way and then we can be in danger of struggling.

The meaning of this parable of the wise and foolish builder may be quite obvious; a proper foundation is necessary whether we are talking about buildings or our lives.



When building your life, and foundation you choose is the most important feature. In the verses that follow, Jesus provides two options for building it. Jesus begins by stating that you must “hear” His Words, but He does not stop there. He goes on to say that you must act upon His Words. If you are going to build on a solid foundation you must do what Jesus teaches you in His Word.



James writes: “Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (James 1:22)

The wise builder says: “The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold” (Psalms 18:2). And how do we relate this to our character and ‘putting on’ the clothes of Christ? Alexander Lockhart wrote ‘Character is like the foundation of a house - it is below the surface’. This reminds me of the iceberg analogy. What we see is just the tip of the iceberg, we need to look deeper, below the surface.

Jesus is our Rock! He is the firm foundation that we can build our lives upon. And if we obey Jesus, and follow what He teaches us, we have the assurance that no matter what flood beats upon us, no matter how fierce the storms of life may get He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:8).

Listen to Firm Foundations by the band Selah: <http://www.viewpure.com/Ph67dhexGoA?start=0&end=0>

A time for reflection:

What are the foundations of your life?
What storms and floods threaten your life?
Will your foundations be strong enough?
What will you want to be remembered for?

Closing prayer:

Dear Lord,
Help us to build our lives securely upon you; the eternal Rock.
May we not just hear your Word, but act upon it.
In the storms of this life, help us trust in you with all our hearts
and avoid the temptations of this world.
Let us lean not on our own understanding, but acknowledge you.
Direct our paths O Lord.

ALL: Amen.

(based on Proverbs 3:5-6)

Now in the words our Saviour taught us, we are bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us, now and evermore. Amen.