

# **The Footer**

## **2 Peter 3:18**

**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

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### **Series 3**

As we continue with our Dream Home series, we start our home with the footer. Just as the footer is the most important part of a house, it's also the most important part of our dream home. I can say that, but I have to confess something. I don't know anything at all about building a house. I hate to say this, but I really didn't even know what a footer was until I got the call to do this lesson. But I have been learning a lot! I went to Bro. Ricky's house and we crawled underneath his house. He showed me the footer and then he taught me some things. The next day, Trent Garland was gracious enough to take me around Murray looking at different homes that were being built. We actually saw footers that were being built. I started learning about the importance of the footer. I learned that the footer has to be true and square. It has to have a width and depth to it. It has to be below the frost line so that it can be on solid ground and the house will not move. The width makes it stand in one place so that it will not sway back and forth. If we are a little off in the footer at all, it affects the entire house. I was pretty impressed with the footer! Bro. Ricky and Trent were both emphatic in saying that the footer is the most important part of the house! Later that evening, Trent sent me some articles. I began to read about some different buildings that have fallen. There was a thirteen story building in China that fell because it had a bad footer. In Bangladesh, an eight story building fell because the footer was bad. I was still thinking about all of this at one o'clock that next morning. I mean, after seeing pictures of both of those buildings and talking to Bro. Ricky

and Trent about the importance of the footer, a thought hit me. I realized that after all the time that was spent on the importance of those buildings and deciding how they should look, it was all pointless without a good footer! I wanted to jump up out of the bed and dig down underneath my house and check out our footer! (I didn't...but I should have.) Another thought hit me as well. I can spend so much time with all of these other relationships in my life, yet if my relationship with Jesus Christ is not number one, the center, the foundation of my life, home, and family, then all other relationships are worthless. That is what we really need to be thinking about. As we think about building relationships with our spouses and children, we need to take time to make sure we are really building our spiritual footer. We really need to be building our relationship with Jesus Christ.

## **Scripture**

***"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."***

## **Spiritual Footer**

Before we think about how to build the spiritual footer, you have to know what a spiritual footer is. I bought my house about seven or eight years ago. I was single at the time and I didn't have a lot of preference. I walked in there and the house looked cool. I liked the bathroom, the bedroom, and the living room. It had a deck and a backyard. It had some nice features to it. I liked the appliances; it was just really cool. The next thing you know, I was buying it. I looked at all of the rooms and not once did it ever enter my mind to look at the most important thing; the footer! Maybe that is you, spiritually. Maybe you have gotten married and you've thought about your spouse that way. You liked the way they looked, their personality and who they are, but through that process, you never gave a

thought about the most important relationship in the marriage. That is the relationship with Jesus Christ. Maybe you are starting to come to the understanding that the most important relationship you would have is with your Lord and Savior. My prayer for you is that if you are lost and not a believer in Jesus, that the Holy Spirit will open up the eyes of your heart to see the importance of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

- **How to Build the Footer**

As Christians, we really have to think about how to build that footer. What does it look like? How do we do this? A passage that I want to camp out at is Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

*"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."*

These verses tell us how to build a relationship with Christ. As we compare the footer to how to build a relationship with Christ, we need to realize the footer needs to have depth. We need to go deep enough so that we are on solid ground. We need to have the right width for the house to be strong enough to withstand the storms that will be coming our way so it will not sway back and forth. The idea is that we need to have depth and width, so that we are truly trusting and resting in Christ in everything that we do. In order for us to have the depth and width that we need in our personal relationship with Christ, we have to go deep. We've got to communicate with our Lord and Savior in an intimate way.

So, what does this look like? It's a relationship, right? What does it take to have a really good relationship within a home? In my mind, if we have

good relationships in the home, we have a few things going on. We are spending time together, we are talking and communicating, we are making some memories together, and we have a pretty tight bond. If you have that in a home, you have probably got a pretty good home. That is what we want in our relationship with Christ. As much as we want time and communication in making memories with our wives and children, we should want that same thing with our relationship with Christ.

## **Depth**

- **Constant Communication**

I want to compare our relationship with our spouse to our relationship with the Lord. So let's look at how we communicate with our spouse on a daily basis. We wake in the morning and begin to talk about the day ahead while we have a cup of coffee. Then, we leave for work and send a few text messages throughout the day. Maybe we make a phone call to check up on things or pick up something at the store or talk something that happened with the kids. There is a continual conversation going on throughout the day. It can be short, but it's going on. You come home at night and have supper while you debrief about the day. You put the kids down and you are completely worn out, but you just hang out for a little bit and enjoy each other's presence. But the bottom line is that through the entire day, there is communication going on. But if you really want to be intimate and get deep with our spouse, we probably need more than that. We probably need a few date nights. Sometimes that is difficult. It seems like there can be something going on every weekend, or weeknight, and it's hard to find even one night that is free. On top of that, you have to pay for a babysitter. But the sacrifice is important. If the husband-wife relationship is really important, it has to be a priority. You will want that time; you will fight for that time so that you can share and communicate. Turn off the cellphone and just enjoy each other and talk about how you are doing. If we really want to build the relationship, we can go to more of an extreme and take a few days off or maybe vacation so that we can just

enjoy and encourage each other and just have a good time. It is refreshing for the relationship.

I would argue that it's the same way in our relationship with the Lord. If the Lord is truly the spiritual footer of our dream home, if He is truly number one in our lives, there should be constant communication going on every single day with Him. When you wake up, you pray and call out to Him. Maybe when you are driving down the road, you have praise and worship music or a sermon going on. Maybe throughout the day, you are sending out short, quick prayers to help you through a situation at work or at home with the kids. Maybe at the end of the day, you come home and just spend some time with Him through a nightly prayer. You can have this constant communication going on throughout the day, which is good! I would argue that no matter what type of family you come from, a husband and wife are having that kind of communication throughout the day. I would argue that a lot of Christians are having that communication throughout the day with the Lord. Most of them say, "Yeah, we are communicating some with Him, yeah we're calling out to Him." As a husband and wife, sometimes it's tough to find time to make those date nights happen, yet how much tougher is it for us to be intimate and have that quantity and quality time with the Lord? It's difficult. We have to fight for that time. But if He is truly number one, we will make time to be with Him.

- **Make Time for the Lord**

Some of us give excuses for not spending time with the Lord. "I'm just so busy. I understand that I need to spend time with Him, but you don't know my schedule. I have 18 kids in the house! I have a foot of bills waiting to be paid. My boss is not going to give me grace." We can have all of these things going on that we think we have to take care of right now, and if we don't, it's all going to fall apart! We just live within the moment, knowing that God is there, but we'll deal with Him later. We'll talk to Him later or on Sunday morning and we just completely neglect the relationship. But if we

are really going deep with this, we are committed and called to be with Him!

In Joshua 1, when Joshua gets his commissioning, God told him that the law of the Word would not depart from him day or night. In Deuteronomy 17, it talks about how kings are called to write their own copy of the Word of God and read it day and night. In Psalms chapter 1, it talks about the man who is firmly rooted in his faith. He meditates on the Word of God day and night and it's a delight to him. You see Jesus in the gospels fighting for His time with the Lord. If He had to get up before dawn, or spend all night praying, He did it because there was a desire to be with His heavenly Father and be intimate with Him. I would argue that no matter what our situation is, we fight for that time. We have to make it a priority to build that spiritual footer. It is worth it, towards our spouse, our children, and everybody we come in contact with, to have that intimate, deep time with the Lord.

I know how it is. It is busy and we have all of these different things going on. I play that same card a lot myself, but you know what is interesting about me? I am a big sports fan, and somehow I just find time to watch a ballgame or two. How do I do that? A baseball game is pretty long; how did I find time to do that?

I really enjoy my family, but sometimes I wake up in the mornings and have all this pressure going on because I have to do all of these different things. But then I hear the sounds of this little one year old baby crawling into my office and he looks up and smiles really big. No matter what is going on, all of a sudden I can find five or ten minutes to be with him. I start talking with my wife and then I think all of that stuff can just wait. I really love her and I just want to be with her. It's amazing how we can really find time for people and things that are really important to us.

The question is, is the Lord important to you in your life right now? Are you genuinely making time to go deep with Him? I don't care if you have to pay a babysitter to watch your kids while you go have time alone with God. If

you have to do that, go do it. It is worth it to the entire family; to truly be intimate with the Lord.

### **Width**

- **Searching and Seeking God's Word**

There's another reason that can stop us from spending time with Him. Some, especially men, say, "I don't like to read." I don't think there is anyone who doesn't like to read if it is something that you're interested in. I have heard that UK basketball has the best recruiting class in the history of the game. When it comes to reading articles about that recruiting class, I haven't really heard anyone at all say, "I just don't like to read. I just don't want to read that; I hate reading." When it comes to getting a bonus from work, I don't hear anybody saying, "I just don't want to read about that bonus. It's too tough, it has too many terms." When someone receives a love letter from their spouse, I don't hear many say, "I just really don't want to read that right now." No, if we really genuinely care about the subject, the topic, or the person, we want to read about it. I know it's difficult, but it's worth it.

Proverbs 2 says that if you seek the Word of God like silver, if you search for it like a hidden treasure, you will find the knowledge of God and understand the fear of God. The point is that sometimes it can feel like you're searching for a hidden treasure. It's hidden, it's hard to find when you are reading sometimes, but when you find the treasure, you realize and understand that truly experiencing the Lord is so much more valuable than any gold, silver, or any dollar amount at all! When that happens, when you're really going deep, really getting intimate, when you have that width in your relationship to the Lord, the result of that changes the entire house.

- **Sharing the Lord**

The result is what Deuteronomy talks about. Because you love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, and mind, you just cannot help but

talk about Him. You just cannot help but want to teach about the Lord. A house that has truly made Jesus the true number one spiritual footer of the home; it just looks different!

Several years ago, I was with some friends that I love and cherish. They are a little older than me and they had just started their marriage and they had two young boys. I went to their house and was enjoying fellowship with them and they asked me to join them for supper. I was just so encouraged the entire time we were eating. It wasn't that there was anything profound going on. There was laughter, and we were just having a good time. You could just feel the joy of the Lord there. They asked me to stay for their family devotional, and at the time, I had never even heard what a family devotional was. I was feeling a little awkward and wondering how you would have a devotional with a two and four year old. What is this going to look like? So they get this big, long pillow out for the kids to sit on and they call it the worship pillow. They start reading some Scripture to them and they sing a little hymn together. They get a little missionary book out and the kids pick out the country of Africa from it. They got some animals out and talked about the zebras and lions. They also had a picture of a missionary and they prayed for him. It wasn't anything profound, but you could just tell that Christ was center for the mom and dad. He was number one and it overflowed to how they treated their kids at the supper table, how they treated each other, and what they wanted to talk about after supper. I left that night experiencing a family that was just loving each other like Christ loves the Church and like the Church is called to love Christ! It overflowed to their children, to what they did, and to what they said. I left, not hearing a profound sermon, not experiencing something grand, but being a part of just a small little devotional. I saw how Christ is the spiritual footer in that house. It just made me want to repent and follow and worship Him! That is what we should strive for. We should strive to truly know and understand Him in an intimate way and let it overflow throughout the entire house.



- **Make Memories with the Lord**

If we are really taking time to talk to Him and about Him with others, the result is that we should make some memories. We should make some memories with the Lord. When I think about memories, I think about pictures. Whatever good memories we have in our house, it usually ends up on a wall. Any house you walk into, you can see what people are really passionate about. There may be a picture with a famous celebrity or athlete. There may be a big deer on the wall. There may be a whole bunch of pictures of grandchildren or children. Do you know what else we need on our walls? We need Scripture. The Deuteronomy passage talks about writing Scripture on the doorpost. In our household, we take that literally. We have a chalkboard where we write down a verse every single week. It is called the Lawrence family verse of the week. We go through a verse or two of Proverbs every week. We started this when our son was born. The goal is to go through the entire book of Proverbs, from the time he was born until he is age 16. We just pray through that verse when he lay him down in bed at night. We take him to the board and talk about the verse. We have Joshua 1:9 written on his wall, which talks about being strong and courageous in the Lord.

When I look at a picture from a vacation when I was little, I can remember things from the picture. I remember a trip to Colorado and when I see that picture, and I can immediately feel the temperature in Colorado. I can feel how cold the water was when we went white water rafting. I remember the food and the culture.

If we truly want Christ to be a spiritual footer, we want to paint pictures and have them on our walls so that as we are teaching them and living them out, it brings memories to our children. We need to take steps of faith and teach the Word of God to our children and each other. And as the Word of God is written on our heart, the hope is that those memories will help us to be strong and courageous in the Lord. Just as you remember your family when you look back at a picture, memories will be sparked

every time you look back to that picture of Scripture at your house, and you will remember who you are in the Lord.

Honestly, I know that my son doesn't really know what I'm saying when I read the Scripture in his room about being strong and courageous in the Lord. He just turned one. My fear is what will the world be like when he's 18? What about when he's my age, 33? I almost want to weep when I think about the sexual temptation that he really will have no way to avoid because we live in America. I also fear that he might not be able to preach like his daddy, in a country that is free to be able to do it. It might cost him and he might have to suffer. But as I read to him, my hope and my goal is to make Christ the spiritual footer of our home. I want to give him pictures in his mind so that when that young boy comes to Christ, the result will be that in the midst of a trial, in the midst of a temptation, he remembers back to Joshua 1:9 and he can be strong and courageous in the Lord. He can believe that the Lord will be with him wherever he goes and the picture reminds him of who he is. That is our goal; that we are living in such a way that when it comes to temptation, when it comes to the trial, when it comes to whatever issue is coming our way, the result is that we're reminded about who our God is. We are reminded about who we are in God and we are living in such a way that as much as we don't want to sin against our family, we ultimately do not want to sin against our God and we stay faithful to Him. At the same time, as we think about this and really meditate and pray and call out to God and build that relationship with Him, we need reinforcement.

- **Reinforcements**

Honestly, I didn't even know what rebar was, but I learned it is reinforcement for the footer. We need reinforcement. We need the church. In my home, I need my wife and I hope she needs me so that we could continue to encourage each other. We need people outside our home to give us the support we need. Each and every single one of us is going to have things in our life. They may be small or they may be big. It may be

like that concrete and it's going to crack. We're going to feel at certain moments of our life that we cannot go on and we're going to crack at any second.

We had one of those moments last year when our son was born. The first week was great because my wife's mom was at the house. The second week was great because my mom was at the house. I'll be honest, when the moms wanted to get in the picture; I thought we wouldn't need them. But after the baby was here, I thought *please stay as long as you want!* After they both left, my wife and I were trying to figure out what we were doing. We were tired and exhausted and didn't know what we were doing. Then I put my foot in my mouth and said, "Are we sure we are on the right schedule with this kid?" We were so stressed out with this three week old baby and my wife said, "I don't know!" Then the big crocodile tears start coming...We both were feeling like we're getting ready to crack. Then she texted a good friend of hers who had been in this position. She started giving her a truth that we both needed to hear at that moment. She gave her some encouragement as well. Then, even though we had felt like we were going to crack, we had that reinforcement to hold us together.

If we are going to make Christ the spiritual footer in our home and continue to grow in Him, we not only need to be intimate with Him, we need to be intimate with others who will encourage us in our walk with the Lord. That doesn't just mean going to church on Sunday or Wednesday night. It means having genuine fellowship, genuine community throughout the week.

With all of that being said, for the majority of us, what I have said here probably isn't profound. This is not any big, spiritual truth that has been revealed. It's not something new. It's something we have probably heard several times. But this is a warning; are we really living it out and applying these things? Are we really going deep in our relationship with the Lord? Are we really, genuinely, making time to pray and call out to Him? Because if we're not, we could be having cracks going up our walls right now.

- **Warning**

My concern is that if we're not careful, we could fall hard. I have learned that you could have two homes that are both built in an immaculate way. But one home could have a good footer and one could have a bad footer, and you cannot tell the difference. Yet, when the storm comes, the one with the bad footer will fall. The point is that you can look like you are a strong Christian right now and you could fool everyone around you. But if you are not genuinely serving the Lord and being deep and intimate with Him, calling out to Him, spending time with Him, when the storm of life occurs, you will fall. You may be holding sin within. Some of you walk by moms and dads and you are mad and bitter because you cannot have children right now. Some of you look at families and compare yourself because you wish you had some of the things that they have. Some of you might be struggling with pornography. Some of you might be struggling with a variety of different sins and you're not dealing with it. You're not going deep and calling or crying out to the Lord. The result is that the attack of sin is getting ready to destroy you and your family. I will warn you that no matter how long you have been in your church or have been a leader in your church, when you fall, it doesn't just affect you. It affects many people. Those buildings that we talked about earlier, they didn't just affect a few people. But because of the size, they affected hundreds, if not thousands of lives. If you are not right with the Lord and going deep with Him in a personal and intimate way, you are getting ready to fall hard. You will fall hard in a way that won't just affect you, but affect others, maybe for generations to come. We need to take this warning seriously. But hear me loud and clear, no matter if you have fallen, the good news is that there is still hope. It's going to be messy, but there's hope.

- **Hope**

So what happens if you have a house with a bad footer? Can it be fixed? The answer is yes, but you will get your hands dirty. No matter where you've come from or how you've fallen, it's going to be messy and difficult

to deal with all of that garbage. But we serve a God who is in the business of taking people that are wretches and using them in mighty ways. We serve a God who took someone who denied Him three times on the most important day in the history of civilization and then later used him to preach a sermon where 3000 people came to Christ. We serve a God who took Saul, a man wanting to kill Christians, and transformed him in such a way that he became the greatest missionary of all time. We serve a God that has taken men and women and continues to radically change their lives and use them in a mighty way. We serve a God that has the strongest spiritual footer. We serve a God that went to a cross and the foundation at the foot of that cross was firm and strong! He took the wrath on that cross. But the result of what He did on that cross was that if we truly have Jesus as the most important relationship in our life, we can now truly experience our dream home, now and in the kingdom to come! The result of this is that when we truly, genuinely, put Christ first, and He is what is keeping us together, if He is the number one relationship; the truth is that now and in the life to come, no matter what storm comes, no matter what attack comes, no matter what war comes, the house will stand firm! The result of that is the more that we hold onto and believe in that, when life issues come, when the attack of sin comes; it doesn't mean that it will be easy, but we can withstand the storm. We can withstand the attack and we can long toward the dream home we will have. A home where we can live in paradise and rest and be secure with Christ forever! But if we do not have that, like those buildings, we will fall hard. Where are you? Are you genuinely, intimately, committed and in love with the Lord? Is He number one in your life? If that is not happening in your life, you might be making excuses. I plead with you not to make an excuse, but make it the number one priority to be intimate with Him. He is worth it.

