

THE BAIT OF SATAN DEVOTIONAL STUDY GUIDE

The Bible refers to a house built on the sand (Matt. 7:26-27). Such a house may be five stories tall and decorated beautifully. As long as the sun is shining, the house looks like a bulwark of strength and beauty. Next to that house may be a plain, single-story house that is almost unnoticeable and unattractive in comparison to the beautiful edifice next to it. But it is built on something you can't see—rock.

Trial and testings locate a person. In other words, they determine your spiritual position.

As long as no storms strike, the five-story house looks much nicer. But when it encounters a severe storm, the five-story house will collapse in ruins. Christians are living stones whose houses are built on the rock of Jesus Christ. When storms come, they do not run, take offense, or blame others. Rather, in the storms of life, they stand firm.

Have you attempted to build a house on the sandy foundations of this world's system? Check any of the worldly foundations listed below that you have been tempted to use. Briefly describe the result:

- Money: I overspent
- Success: _____
- Power: _____
- Possessions: took too much value in them
- Security: _____
- People: isolated myself from people
- Other: _____

Be sure that you build your life on God's revealed Word, not on what others do or say. Keep seeking the Lord and listening to His voice as He speaks to your heart. Don't do or say things just to please everyone else. Seek Him, and stand on what is illuminated in your heart!

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WRITE A PRAYER...

Asking God's Spirit to reveal His Word to you and to help you to build
your life upon the Rock of Christ.

Day 14

Lord you know my situation ~~my things~~ ~~messy~~
Help me to rely on you & may the scriptures
sink in.
Amen..

ALL THAT CAN BE SHAKEN WILL BE SHAKEN

He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

—HEBREWS 12:26–27

[Read chapter 8, stopping at the heading "Grace Is Given to the Humble."]

EVEN THOUGH SIMON PETER WAS NAMED "ROCK" AND CONFESSED Jesus as the Son of the living God, toward the end of Jesus's earthly ministry Peter discovered that he was not yet walking in the character and humility of Christ. He was building his life and ministry with past victories and pride. Paul admonished us to take heed how we build on our foundation in Christ:

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

—1 CORINTHIANS 3:10–11

When any part of our lives is built upon worldly things, that part will be shaken by Christ.

Read 1 John 2:15–17. Below is a list of worldly things that God will shake from our lives. Put an x on the line representing where you are.



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- To bring your life closer to its foundation
- To remove what is dead, such as pride, from your life
- To harvest what is ripe within you
- To awaken a dormant area of your spiritual life
- To solidify your life so that the truth in your spirit man can no longer be separated from your soul and body

Any thought process or heart attitude that is rooted in selfishness or pride will be shaken and purged.

WRITE A PRAYER...

Asking the Lord to sift the pride, selfishness, and lust from your life.

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The lust of the flesh

ALREADY SHAKEN

The lust of the eyes

ALREADY SHAKEN

The pride of life

ALREADY SHAKEN

Because of Peter's pride at the end of Jesus's ministry, Jesus told him, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat" (Luke 22:31).

Jesus did not pray that Simon Peter would escape the intense shaking—He prayed that Peter's faith would not fail in the process.

Pride opened the door for the enemy to come in and sift Simon Peter. Now if Jesus had had the mentality of many within the church, He might have said, "Let's pray, guys, and bind this attack of the devil. We are not going to let Satan do this to our beloved Simon! But look at what He said: "I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren" (Luke 22:32).

Jesus did not pray that Simon Peter would escape the intense shaking—He prayed that Peter's faith would not fail in the process. Jesus knew that out of this trial would emerge a new character, the one Simon Peter needed to fulfill his destiny and strengthen his brethren.

Satan had requested permission to shake Simon Peter so severely that he would lose his faith. The enemy's intent was to destroy this man of great potential who had received so much revelation. But God had a different purpose for the shaking, and, as always, God is way ahead of the devil.

God may shake our lives for one of the following purposes. If He is shaking your life, which of these reasons could be His purpose for you? (Check all that apply.)

YOU HAVE NO OTHER OPTION THAN . . .

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

—1 PETER 2:4-5

[Read the remainder of chapter 7, beginning with the heading "No Other Option."]

THE REVEALED WORD OF GOD IS THE SOLID ROCK ON WHICH WE are to build our lives and ministries. Its commands and laws are not optional; they are mandatory. Just because a command or law in the Word might be offensive, we do not have the options of offense and disobedience. The only option we have is to obey.

Describe a time in your life when you took offense at the Word and did not obey. What were the consequences?

I ended up drinking beer heavily for years or asked SON to take away that desire, which he did. A week later I threw up blood, was in a coma.

In the midst of trials and pressures, we find ourselves, like Peter, becoming as stones—little rocks being built into spiritual houses. Peter (*Petra*) is a rock, a stone confessing that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God.

Trials and testings locate a person. In other words, they determine your spiritual position. They reveal the true condition of your heart.