



Jesus told a particularly important parable in Matthew 7:24-29 (the Sermon on the Mount) that explicitly gave us the “secret” for success during stormy seasons of life. In a nutshell, there were two houses, one built on rock and the other built on sand. During a violent storm, the house built on rock stood while the one built on sand fell. What’s the key? The foundation upon which they were built.

The “rock” in this portion of scripture, as Jesus defines it in verses 24 and 27, is obedience to (hearing *and* doing) the message He shared earlier in the sermon. The one who builds his or her life on the teachings, principles, and the Word of God, will be able to withstand the storms of life, such as the current COVID seasons with all it’s limitations and destruction of life and economy. Our success is NOT dependent upon a good society, economy, etc. but on doing what Jesus has told us to do.

Conversely, the one who builds his or her life on sand – the value system and principles of this world, human understanding, etc. – is vulnerable when the same storms hit! And it’s inevitable end is destruction. When we disregard the wisdom of God’s Word we cannot expect God to fulfill His promises. Do life His way and succeed.

When we build our lives on the rock, obedience to His Word, we experience all the blessings and promises of God. These promises include real peace, provision, protection, joy, hope and much more! The deciding factor is found in James 1:22-25 *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves...*

BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE

1. Isaac was blessed and reaped 100-fold as he sowed (planted) *even* during a severe famine. He believed and in faith acted upon God’s Word. (Genesis 26:1, 12-14; Hebrews 11:1, 6)
2. In Deuteronomy we find a comprehensive overview of the blessings followed by the curses for disobedience.
 - A. **Deuteronomy 28:1-14** *Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:...*
 - Example from verses 7 and 8, *The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. The Lord will command the blessing on you...*
3. A specific promise to the person who builds his or her life on rock is found in **Malachi 3:10-12** concerning the tithe and provision. Three benefits we receive when we obey...
 - A. God gives an over-the-top abundance in return.
 - B. God rebukes the devourer.
 - C. All nations will call us blessed.
4. These and *many other promises* are for the person who “hears these sayings of (Jesus), and does them...”
 - A. How do Matthew 22:34-39 and John 6:28-29 apply?
 - B. This week look up other promises to the believer who obeys God’s Word.